



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

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PHARMACOPOEIA OF THE CEYLON HOSPITALS.

We have received from Dr. Rutherford, Acting P.C.M.O., a copy of the Sixth Edition of the above publication. The price is only 50 cts., and the book is obtainable from the Government Printer. It has recently been revised and should prove of great value to estate Superintendents.

LABOUR.

Friday, the 9th of May, was notable in the annals of the P.A. for the opportunity afforded to the Planting Community of bidding farewell to the Hon'ble Mr. Edward Rosling, Rural Member of the Legislative Council. There has perhaps never been a man more prodigal in his free gift of service to our Association, and since the P.A. began its career in the year 1854 under the Chairmanship of Captain Jolly, few, if any, wiser heads have helped to guide its destinies. Our loss in Ceylon is our gain in England, for Mr. Rosling carries home with him first hand inside knowledge of all our aims and struggles, and a most capacious memory. As our Chairman said in his speech at the farewell dinner, we all hope that it may please His Majesty the King to grant some distinctive recognition of an unselfish public career.

Apart from the usual long list of Committee Meetings there was held on Friday a General Meeting of the P.A. and a farewell dinner to Mr. Rosling. Probably the most hopeful point about the General Meeting was the fact that it was a younger generation's field day. There were four past Chairmen of the P.A. present and not one of them spoke. The rest spoke good sense or nonsense according to their lights, and there was enough of the former uttered to encourage one to hope to goodness that we may not be judged by the latter. The general upshot of the meeting is that the Proprietors' Labour Federation is to have a fair run and a full chance of establishing itself on a new basis.

The dinner was what the press calls an "enjoyable function." To our representative it seemed that the speeches were good above the average, though unfortunately the reporters did not record Mr. Beachcroft's sparkling extemporary raid upon the ladies, who seemed to enjoy it.

Mr. Rosling, who rejoices in epigram, was in his finest form, and the Chair held its own nobly. But the rest of our representative's impressions must be curtailed, for the golden atmosphere through which they were obtained cannot be conveyed to paper. (We believe he sat next to the Excise Commissioner.—Ed.)

The feeling that some form of organized Recruiting Agency is required appears to have come to stay. It is reflected in the reports of the District Association Meetings and in letters to the papers. But, as the *Times of Ceylon* has pointed out, to speak of flooding the island with coolies is merely to utter a counsel of perfection unless at the same time some practicable suggestion is made as to how this flood is to be arranged. The letter from Mr. Westland which appeared in our last issue is the most valuable contribution to the subject yet received, and we would again invite attention to it. The great difficulty has been to devise some equitable method of dividing such coolies as may be recruited by any agency to which a large number of different interests subscribe. To organize an agency in various grades, from the general supervision to the actual recruiters in the villages is not very difficult; and to raise the money would offer no difficulty at all. But there remains the difficulty of deciding who, among all the subscribers, is to have the coolies when recruited. Probably the solution lies in the direction indicated in Mr. Westland's letter. Let us suppose that Companies aggregating 100,000 acres combine and impose upon themselves an acreage cess of 50 cts., the amount realized would suffice to pay the superior staff and office expenses of an agency consisting of a chief and two assistant recruiting supervisors who would direct and control the official recruiters working under them. This staff would then divide up the districts in which it purposed to work into small groups of villages to each of which would be appointed an official recruiter. Probably two hundred such groups would suffice, viz., one for each five hundred acres of the subscribing estates. It would then be open

to subscribers to write and book for their operations, one or more of these groups, together with the services of the recruiters resident in them. The whole salary and expenses of the recruiter for one year would be paid for by the estate that booked him, and no other recruiter would be sent into the same group or area. All coolies from that particular group would be forwarded through the supervising staff, and the estate would have the option, before any one else, of continuing operations in the same group for the following year. This is a mere skeleton of the project, whether it should work quite independently of the Ceylon Labour Commissioner, or under his auspices, would depend largely upon his advice. It would, in any case, have to be started in new ground, namely in the Telugu districts, and not in the old Tamil country. There is no reason why some such agency should not be run without prejudice to the old Ceylon connections in India, and, of course, without any reflection on the work of the Labour Commission. It is not improbable that the Proprietors' Labour Federation might gain greatly in popularity by putting forward some such project to be run under its control and open only to its members. Contribution would, of course, be optional and not a rule of the Federation.

COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of Agricultural Experiments held at the Experiment Station, Peradeniya, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, the 8th May, 1913.

PRESENT:—The Director of Agriculture (in the chair), the Government Mycologist, the Government Entomologist, the acting Government Chemist, the Superintendent, Experiment Station, Maha-illuppalam and the Hon'ble Mr. G. S. Saxton, the Hon'ble Mr. E. Rosling, Messrs. G. H. Gollidge, N. W. Davies, R. G. Coombe, H. Inglis, H. D. Garrick, M. L. Wilkins. The Superintendent, Experiment Station, Peradeniya, Secretary, with Count de Mauny Talvande, Messrs. J. W. Oldfield, Thorp, T. Y. Wright, J. Saxton, H. L. Van Buren, Jr., and J. C. Driberg as visitors.

2. PAPERS TABLED:—

- (1) Progress Report of the Experiment Station, Peradeniya.
- (2) Progress Report of the Experiment Station, Maha-illuppalam.
- (3) Results of Rubber Tapping Experiments, Peradeniya, 1912.
- (4) Result of Cocoa Manuring Experiments, Peradeniya, 1912.
- (5) Results of Experiments in Shading Cocoa.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting of the 30th March were read and confirmed.

4. STUMP BLASTING.—The question was raised whether it was considered necessary to blast out all the stumps in the new rubber clearings.

Decided after discussion to remove the largest stumps in the Peradeniya clearing, and all stumps in the Henarat-goda clearing.

5. HOLE-BORING TOOL.—It was decided to import a sample tool for trial as it is not available in Ceylon.

6. DISTANCE OF PLANTING COCOA.—Hon. Mr. Rosling suggested 16 x 16 for the new clearing and Mr. Coombe

suggested wider planting: at least 20 x 20, and it was decided to try plots of both.

7. ACME CUP SUPPORTS.—The Chairman said that trials had been made with these cup supports, and, as far as the experiments had gone, they had not saved any scrap. On Mr. Gollidge pointing out that the experiments in question had not been carried out in quite the manner intended by the inventor, it was agreed to renew these trials on the proper basis.

8. PROGRESS REPORT.—Referring to the Progress Report of the Experiment Station, Peradeniya, the Chairman remarked that it was well written, and was of special interest as containing useful data. He drew the attention of the Committee to the Hand Moulding of Para Rubber, a specimen of rubber prepared by native Amazon process as demonstrated by Mr. Wickham being exhibited.

The Progress Report of Maha-illuppalam was not gone through and the Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. Harbord, the Superintendent, had brought some coconuts grown on that plantation which he considered to be good as they were cultivated in the Dry Zone.

9. REPORT ON TEA EXPERIMENTS.—A discussion arose on this question in which Messrs. Rosling, Davies, Coombe and the Chairman took part. The report not being received from Mr. Bamber the following resolution was adopted:—"Resolved that an expression of regret be sent to Mr. Bamber from the Committee at not having received the report on the tea experiments and of hope they may be sent at an early date."

10. SISAL HEMP.—The Hon'ble Mr. Rosling drew attention to an automatic feeding decorticator known as the New Corona in use in Mauritius, and the Chairman undertook to enquire of the Department of Agriculture there of the success of this decorticator with Mauritius Hemp.

11. SHOT-HOLE BORER.—A lengthy discussion followed in which the Hon'ble Mr. Saxton, the Hon'ble Mr. Rosling, Messrs. Petch, Rutherford, Coombe, Gollidge, Inglis, Garrick and the Chairman took part.

The Chairman said the question was not what remedial measures were required as to which it seemed to be agreed that the remedies advised by Mr. Green remained good, but what steps should be taken to prevent the distribution of affected plants. It appeared to him that would not be done unless it was made compulsory for every owner to declare Shot-Hole Borer when it existed on his estate.

The Hon'ble Mr. Saxton referred to the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Kandy Plant Pest Board and also the draft of a Proclamation adopted by the Board. He said that personally he thought it better to get the Ordinance repealed and have one Central Board for the whole Island to control the Pest Board.

Mr. Coombe expressed a desire that Government be addressed with regard to this matter as he considered steps were urgently required; he felt sure the pest was spreading, a statement corroborated by Mr. Garrick. He stated a staff of inspectors was required not only to inspect plantations, but also to issue passes for young plants coming from nurseries immune from the pest.

Hon'ble Mr. Rosling animadverted on the disadvantages of being over-inspected. He did not think the proper men could be found, and secondly felt sure the Planters' Association would not agree to a system of inspection.

Mr. Gollidge replied that he trusted the Planters' Association would not oppose anything so beneficial to the Colony at large.

The Chairman then pointed out that it would be of no use to lay the matter before Government unless a concrete scheme was submitted; but first the opinion of the Planters' Association should be ascertained.

The following resolution to be forwarded to the Planters' Association of Ceylon was adopted:—

“Resolved that the Planters' Association be asked whether compulsory proclaiming of plant pests on individual estates is desirable in the interests of the planting industry.”

The Chairman undertook to draft a concrete scheme on a reply being received in the affirmative from the Planters' Association.

12. COCOA MANURING EXPERIMENTS.—The Chairman said that he proposed to publish the results in a Bulletin, and as there was no special gentleman responsible for them he thought it would be better to publish them under the name of the Committee. It was agreed that the results be published on the authority of the Committee of Agricultural Experiments.

13. COCOA SHADE EXPERIMENTS.—The Chairman remarked that by embarking on shade experiments they were traversing old ground, and it was resolved that the shade experiments be also published in the same Bulletin as that of the manuring and that the experiments be discontinued.

He read a memorandum by Mr. J. A. M. Bond on different questions dealing with cocoa planting.

14. RESULTS OF RUBBER TAPPING.—It was decided to keep records as to how many trees could be tapped per day in each experiment. It was also agreed that these experiments be published along with those of the Cocoa, but that it should be stated that in neither case were to be considered as final.

The Chairman said that he had written a Bulletin which would be shortly issued, dealing on some of the Heneratgoda rubber trees. He quoted figures showing the large average yield of the trees at Heneratgoda on the outside of the three small plantations there indicating the beneficial effects of light and room. He exhibited diagrams showing how plantations could be laid out reproducing the conditions of these trees. It was decided to lay out parts of the new 20 acres in this manner:—

15. COCONUT TRIAL GROUNDS.—In connection with the question of Coconut Trial Grounds the Chairman informed the meeting that he had come to an arrangement with the Martin Coconut Estates Company, Limited, of Chilaw, who had offered land to the extent of 23 acres 1 rood and 20 perches. He proposed having only two trial grounds this year—one at Chilaw and the other perhaps at Galle.

16. LOCAL TIMBER.—With regard to local timber for tea and rubber chests, the Chairman remarked that no specimens of timber suitable for tea and rubber chests had as yet been furnished by the acting Forester.

17. NEW MEMBERS.—The names of three gentlemen were selected for recommendation to the acting Governor for filling vacancies on the Committee.

18. ABSENT MEMBERS.—The following resolution was adopted:—

“Resolved that a member absent from 3 consecutive meetings *ipso facto* ceases to be a member.”

19. RUBBER RESEARCH.—The Hon'ble Mr. Rosling addressed the meeting with regard to rubber research and said that he hoped the Planting Community would give this matter their support. The Chairman informed the meeting that a cablegram had been despatched to the Imperial Institute to send out a Rubber Research Chemist, and though nothing has been heard, his departure was believed to be imminent. He said that the Chemist would be attached to the staff of the Agricultural Department and that his headquarters would be at Peradeniya.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman, voicing the sentiments of all present, cordially thanked the Hon'ble Mr. Rosling for the services rendered to the Committee, and expressed his great regret at his retirement.

D. S. CORLETT,
Secretary, Committee of Agricultural
Experiments.

TAMILS IN AFRICA.

The following petitions received by an official in East Africa and written by Tamil immigrants have been placed at our disposal. Education would appear to have advanced on very erratic lines in the dark Continent.

Respected Sir,

My wife runs off yesterday with Sinnaswami Naide my God how annoying, therefore respectable Sir, will please apologise to me for not resorting to Office this morning, for I go to apprehend this detestable individual.

Honoured Sir,

Having been amputated from my family for some years, and as I have complaints of the abdomen coupled with great conflagrations of the internals and prostration of all desire for work, with also the disgorging of my dinner, I hope your highness will excuse my attendance for ten or nine days more, and in duty bound shall ever pray for the solubility of your temper and the enlargement of your family.

Most Honoured Sir,

Understanding that there are several hands wanted in your Honour's Department, I beg to offer my hand as to adjustment. I appeared for the Matric Exam in Ooty, but failed, the reason for which I shall describe to begin with, my writing was illegible, this was due to climatic reasons for having come from a warm to a cold climate, found my fingers stiff and very disobedient to my wishes. Further, I had received a great shock to my mental system in the shape of the death of my only fond brother Mr. C. Viraswami, besides honoured Sir I beg to state that I am in very uncomfortable circumstances, being the soul means of support of my fond brother's seven issues, consisting of three adults and four adultresses, the latter being bairs of my existence owing to my having to support two of my own wives as well as their issues, of which by God's misfortune the feminine gender predominates. If by wonderful good fortune these few humble lines meet with your highnesses kindness and favourable turn of mind, I the poor menial shall ever pray the long life and prosperity of yourself as well as your honour's posthumous olive branches,

THE PLANTING GAZETTE.

STRENGTH RETURN.
CEYLON PLANTERS' RIFLE CORPS.
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1913.

Coy.	SECTION.	VOLUNTEER STAFF.										Lance-Sergts. & Corps.				Total Strength of Corps exclusive of Permanent Staff.						
		Lieut.-Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	2nd Lieutenants.	Adjutant.	Qr. Master.	Sergt.-Major.	Qr. M. Sergt.	Colour-Sergeant.	Sergeant.	Lance-Sergts. & Corps.	Sergt.-Bugler.	Buglers.		Privates and Lance-Corporals.					
	Staff	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
A.	Kelaun Valley	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	29	33
	Ratnapura	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	7
	Peimadulla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
B.	Kandy	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	15	18
	Matale	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	12	16
	Madulkelle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	8
C.	Rangalla	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	8
	Mattakelle	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	10	14
	Agrapatna	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	8
	Kotagalla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	9	12
	Darawella	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	7
	Maskeliya	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	7	8
D.	Bogawantalawa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	5
	Nuwara Eliya	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
	Ramboda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Haputale	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	14	18
	Badulla	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	16	20
E.	Uda Pussellawa	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	9	11
	Batticaloa	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	10
	Kalutara	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	26	30
	Kurunegalla	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	13
	Galle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	12	13
	Morawak Korale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
F.	Anuradhapura	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	9	13
	Trincomalie	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	4
	Colombo	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	...	...	42	51
G.	Ambegamuwa	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	8	7
	Pussellawa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
	Dolosbage	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	15
H.	Colombo	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	...	1	57	68
	Motor Cycle Section	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	16	20
* TOTAL STRENGTH		...	1	2	11	8	5	...	2	1	1	...	4	21	20	1	5	379	461	461		
Strength by last Return		...	1	2	11	8	5	...	2	1	1	...	5	21	20	1	5	381	464	464		
Increase Since		...																				
Decrease Since		...																				
* C. P. R. C. Reserve		47	Decrease	3					
Total Strength including Reserve		...																	508	Reserve Increase	...	1

G. H. STEVENSON, Captain,
Adj. C. M. R. & C. P. R. C.

CEYLON MOUNTED RIFLES.

Strength Return for Month Ending April, 1913.

DETAIL.																						Instructional Staff.							
		Lieut.-Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants & 2nd Lieuts.		Quartermaster.	Total Officers.		Regtl. Sergt. Major.	Regtl. Q. M. Sergt.	Parr Q. M. Sergt.	S. S. Majors.	Sqd. Q. M. Sergt.	Sergeants.	Orderly Room Clerk.	Parr Sergeants.	Corporals.	Trumpeters.	Shoeing Smiths.	Troopers.	Total Rank and File.	Total all Ranks.	Adjutant.	S. S. M. Instructor.	Sergt. Instructor.	Medical Officer.	Vet'y. Officer.	Total
Regtl. Staff.		1	...	1	2	1	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	1	1	1	...	...	3
A. Squadron.																													
Staff		...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. I. Troop		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	21	24	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ II. „		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	11	13	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ III. „		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	24	28	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ IV. „		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	1	19	26	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL...		...	...	1	1	4	...	6	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	1	7	5	1	75	94	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B. Squadron.																													
Staff		...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. I. Troop		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	11	15	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ II. „		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	9	14	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ III. „		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	21	24	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ IV. „		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	12	16	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL...		...	...	1	1	4	...	6	...	...	...	1	1	6	1	1	3	3	3	53	72	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Regt. Staff		...	1	...	1	2	1	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total A. Squadron		...	...	1	1	4	...	6	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	1	7	5	1	75	94	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total B. Squadron		...	...	1	1	4	...	6	...	...	...	1	1	6	1	1	3	3	3	53	72	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Strength		...	1	2	3	10	1	17	...	...	1	2	2	9	1	2	10	8	4	128	167	184	1	1	1	...	...	...	3
Total Strength last Return		1	2	3	10	1	17	...	1	1	1	2	12	1	2	10	8	4	130	172	189	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Increase Since		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Decrease Since		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Establishment		...	1	3	3	10	1	18	1	1	1	2	2	11	1	2	13	8	8	184	234	252	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wanting to Complete		...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	3	...	4	56	67	68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Reserve		...	1	1	2	6	...	10	1	1	...	1	...	4	...	...	2	...	...	13	22	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total including Reserve...		2	3	5	16	1	27	1	1	1	3	2	13	1	2	12	8	4	141	189	216	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...

CAPTAIN,

ADJT. C. M. R. & C. P. R. C.

CEYLON LABOUR COMMISSION.

COMMISSIONER'S NOTES.

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS.—These reports speak for themselves, and I trust that the information will be a useful guide to Superintendents.

EUROPEAN RECRUITERS.—A large number of Superintendents have been coming over during the last two months to recruit labour and have met with varying success. It is noticeable that in cases where Superintendents have been a considerable period in charge of their estates their influence among their kanganies recruiting at the Coast is considerable, and although they have remained only a short time supervising their kanganies work they have been satisfied as to the good effects of their visit. I would point out that to expect to be able to establish new connections independent of Kangany Supervision by paying flying visits to various districts is a mistake, and it is necessary for the Superintendent to settle down in one district where there is labour available for at least a couple of months. To imagine that a visit to South India of three weeks to a months duration will enable him to recruit an appreciable number of coolies consistent with the expenditure incurred is a fallacy. A cooly who has no previous connection with Ceylon or any country to which he is asked to emigrate is slow to move, and recruiting therefore entails perseverance and patience.

PRE-ADVANCES.—It is most unwise to pay appreciable sums to kanganies before they proceed to the Coast, as in many cases the money is spent before the kanganies leave Ceylon, and they arrive at their village without any funds whatsoever, which is in itself a bad advertisement and the expedition is thus a failure from its inception.

BOLTING AFTER REGISTRATION.—This still continues to some extent, but it is not so prevalent as hitherto. In most cases it is due to untrustworthy kanganies being sent over, and I would again urge more discrimination being used.

"A." FORMS.—The new A. Form Books are now being gradually supplied to Estates. Old A. Forms still in circulation will, of course, be honoured, but those Superintendents who are in possession of the new forms have been requested not to use the old forms again on receipt of the new books. The new "A." Form should facilitate identification, thus preventing as far as possible fraud, and it should also serve as an impetus to kanganies to carry out their recruiting within the time specified (space for which is provided on the back of the form), thus preventing them from staying at the Coast for an undue length of time.

RECRUITING FIGURES.—The total to end of May is 21,567 as against 18,075 to the same date last year. This is a satisfactory increase taking into consideration the fact that the recruiting season is not yet at its height and crops have been universally good. Salem Circle shows perhaps the most substantial improvement, but all the others are not far behind. In the Madura Circle, Tinnevely and Tataparai are doing well. Coolies are coming from Dindigul and the North Madura District. The results of South Madura are poor and show a decrease on last year. Ammapattanam and Pamban show a very slight increase. Tondi is not so good as last year.

CHITTOOR CIRCLE.—Villupuram is sending coolies in good quantities and is well ahead of last year. The same

applies to Chingleput. The increase at Katpadi is not very appreciable.

With regard to the Telugu Agencies Nellore has recruited 103 coolies to date as against 29 last year: the results from Guntur are very bad. Coolies are available in both these districts, but the Guntur agency is not being patronised by Ceylon Recruiters. Reports from Cuddapah of labour available is most encouraging, and it seems a pity that these three districts, namely Cuddapah, Nellore, and Guntur are not sufficiently exploited.

PALGHAT CIRCLE.—Of the Malabar Agencies Palghat has done better than last year, and Cannanore, a new agency, has made a fair start. My Agents at these two agencies complain that not sufficient recruiting is being done, although there is ample labour available.

HEADQUARTERS CIRCLE.—Trichinopoly Agency has recruited 7,729 coolies as against 6,608 to the same date last year. Tanjore is well ahead in spite of good crops; similarly Turaiyur and Musiri show a great improvement and have recruited nearly double the number of coolies as compared with last year. Pudukottah still continues to be disappointing, but shows some slight improvement on the previous two months. Manaparai has recruited 844 coolies as against 478 in 1912.

SALEM CIRCLE.—Mysore recruiting is still very discouraging. Bangalore Agency only accounts for 83 coolies to date as against 91 last year. The new agency at Nanjangode, however, has recruited 40 coolies and looks as if it may do considerably better. Labour is being recruited freely from Guntakkal and has sent 284 coolies as against 35 last year. The new agency at Namakkal has recruited 146, and I am told labour is available in this district. Dharmapuri, Atur and Tirupattur are all doing fairly well. I am informed that second crops in Salem unlike other districts have almost entirely failed, and that prospects for recruiting in that district are therefore particularly bright.

MANDAPAM COOLY CAMP.—By the courtesy of the Agent of the South Indian Railway I have been permitted to inspect the plans of this undertaking. These are very complete and comprise everything necessary for the proper housing and feeding of the coolies, and sanitation on the very latest principles. A good water supply is provided (by pipes from an engine house) as also Cholera and Small Pox Hospitals, Latrines, incinerators and a Crematorium. There are excellent quarters for the Superintendent of the Camp and other officials, in fact as far as can be gathered from the plans nothing has been left out that will help to make the Mandapam Camp efficient and immune from epidemics. I understand the Camp itself provides accommodation for ten thousand. A temporary camp is in course of construction and will be opened simultaneously with the Indo-Ceylon Connection about the middle of January next. The permanent camp will take longer to build and will be started simultaneously with the temporary erection. The South Indian Railway have undertaken the work of erecting both the temporary and permanent camps.

TELUGU RECRUITING.—It seems a pity that Ceylon is doing so little recruiting work in these districts. I have previously suggested the advisability of concerted action being taken to exploit these densely populated and sparsely

cultivated districts where the rates of pay were so slow and continuity of the employment nonexistent. I am confident that direct recruiting is likely to be more successful in the Telugu country than in the old Tamil districts which are in the grip of the kangany system. It is also apparent that the labour force of Ceylon can be substantially enhanced by Telugu recruiting and if the right sort of Telugu is recruited no doubt the existing prejudice in Ceylon would disappear. I am ready to put forward proposals for a recruiting scheme if invited to do so, but it would be an undertaking quite distinct from the work of this Commission.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.—It will be seen by the appended table that the rainfall throughout South India to date is very short of the average, and indicates that recruiting will probably continue for a longer period this year than is generally the case.

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON,
Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

WEATHER REPORTS.

(8 a.m. to 8 a.m.) 10th May, 1913.

SITUATIONS.	Pressures 8 a.m. 10th May.	Shade Temp.		Past 24 hours.	Rainfall.	
		Max.	Min.		1st April to Date	Average 1st April to Date.
Cocanada	29-662	100-7	84-6	...	0-02	0-87
Masulipatam	29-642	108-8	84-7	...	0-02	0-78
Guntur	...	112-7	82-5	...	0-04	...
Nellore	29-641	110-0	82-1	...	0-11	0-52
Madras	29-697	104-8	84-1	...	0-02	0-72
Cuddalore	29-705	104-3	83-2	...	0-16	0-86
Negapatam	29-707	100-2	83-2	...	0-10	1-09
Pamban	29-736	94-2	80-8	...	0-18	2-14
Colombo	29-793	88-0	78-0	0-16	13-38	13-38
Trivandrum	29-789	90-0	80-0	...	5-07	6-63
Cochin	29-783	93-2	79-7	...	1-87	7-09
Calicut	29-773	90-8	81-6	...	3-89	5-56
Mangalore	29-782	91-3	83-3	...	2-89	1-99
Mercara	26-103	82-0	65-5	...	4-37	3-76
Karwar	29-794	89-8	81-5	...	...	1-08
Bombay	29-783	91-0	79-5	...	...	0-06
Hyderabad	29-710	108-3	84-2	...	0-27	1-29
Raichur	29-697	108-0	81-6	...	...	0-88
Anantapur	...	105-0	81-1	...	0-26	1-00
Bellary	29-679	105-0	79-3	...	1-36	1-35
Kurnool	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuddapah	29-674	108-5	84-8	...	0-26	0-65
Hassan	29-733	93-9	69-1	...	1-85	4-05
Bangalore	29-713	96-8	69-8	0-15	0-58	2-47
Kodakkanal	22-763	74-5	55-0	...	5-14	6-05
Ootacamund	22-985	73-5	55-2	0-02	3-13	5-11
Coimbatore	29-733	95-5	73-8	0-03	1-38	2-51
Nellore	29-706	104-2	78-0	...	3-62	2-16
Salem	29-755	104-5	79-5	...	2-02	3-42
Trichinopoly	29-732	105-6	81-3	...	0-56	2-70
Pudukottah	29-730	105-0	82-4	...	0-96	2-06
Madura	29-741	104-0	82-6	...	0-78	3-25
Pinnevelly	...	...	...	...	0-57	3-59

SITUATIONS.	Pressures 8 a.m. 10th May.	Shade Temp.		Past 24 hours.	Rainfall.	
		Max.	Min.		1st April to Date.	Average 1st April to Date.
Port Blair	29-774	93-2	81-0	0-02	0-14	0-13
Diamond Island	29-731	90-9	80-0	0-01	0-13	4-80
Sangor Island	29-639	87-0	90-7	...	1-64	1-34
Gopalpore	29-654	90-2	81-5	...	0-33	1-23
Waltair	29-650	92-1	82-9	...	0-44	1-22

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR APRIL, 1913.

District.	Taluk.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Commissioner's Circle.						
Trichinopoly (Musiri and Turaiyur Agencies)	Dt. Musiri	... In some parts is still continuing with the exception of Cholam, other dry and wet crops yielded a fair produce.	1	1	Good	Harvesting in some parts of these Taluks is over, and in some parts it is still continuing. Water Supply is only sufficient for drinking purposes, but not for the irrigation of fields. Coolies are available in good number..
	Perambalore	...	2	2½		
	Kulitalai	...	...	...
(Manapara Agency.)	Kulitalai	... Not good	4	3	Excellent	Harvesting is almost over in this part of Kulitalai Taluk, and recruiting prospects are excellent.

THE PLANTING GAZETTE.

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR APRIL, 1913.

District.	Taluk.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Commissioner's Circle.						
Tanjore Dt. (Tanjore Agency)	Arantangi ...	Tobacco cultivation is in progress Harvested Tobacco and Maize with fair result.	4	3	Not good	Supply of water and grain is generally good and coolies find sufficient local employment.
	Kumbakonam ...					
	Mammargudi ...					
	Mayaveram ...					
	Nannilam ...					
	Negapatam ...					
	Papanasam ...					
	Pattukotai ...					
(Ammapatnam Agency)	Shiyali ...					
	Tanjore ...					
(Ammapatnam Agency)	Tiruthuraipondi ...	Crop prospects in these parts of the Taluks are good.	4½	2	Good	The recruiting prospects around this Agency are good.
	Pattukottai ...					
Puducottah State	Tirumayam ...	Fair	5	3	Poor	
(Puducottah Agency)	Alangudi ...	do	4	2	Good	Tirumayam is a wealthy taluk and it affords to maintain its labouring population without their having to seek for employment elsewhere.
	Kolatur ...	do	4	2	Very poor	
The recruiting prospects in Alangudi Taluk are fair, but they are not good in Kolatur. However the high rates of food stuff now prevailing in this Taluk promise better prospects.						
Generally the recruiting in Puducottah State have been marred to a considerable extent by the local festivals during this month.						

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON.

Salem Circle.

Salem ...	Not good	5	2½	Not good	The recruiting prospects are not good owing to magnesite works.
Krishnagiri ...	do	4	2	Good	There is every certainty of recruiting a large amount of labour in the surroundings of Dharmapuri Taluk if kys. who have coast connection with these Taluks are sent over to recruit there. The flow of labour from Dharmapuri is, to a certain extent, checked by local festivals during this month.
Dharmapuri ...	...	...	...	...

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR APRIL, 1913.

District.	Taluq.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.	
			Men.	Women.			
			Annas.	Annas.			
Salem Circle.							
Salem Dt. ...	Atur	...	Fair	4	2	Not good	Harvesting is over in this Taluk, and it had no rainfall for the last four or 5 months. It holds out better prospects in the near future.
	Tiruchengode	A large number of pariah coolies are actually starving here, and if any estate Supdts. were to camp in these places there is every hope of his meeting with success. The people are afraid of being recruited by a kangany.
	Namakkal	...	do	4	2	Good	
	Hosur	Canarese coolies are available here. Though they are Canarese-speaking people they understand Tamil well. A large number of this class will elect to emigrate to Ceylon if they are assured that they will not be burdened with debts. In Tirupathur the recruiting is, to a certain extent, impeded by the prevalence of plague.
	Uttankarai	...	Not good	4	2	Good	
	Omair	...	...	...	...	...
Tirupathur	...	...	...	...	...
Mysore Provinces. ...	Nanjangode	...	Fair	3	2½	Fair	These taluks require to be better advertised, and a good flow of labour is expected from these Taluks if the population are offered better encouragements.
	Chamerajah	...	...	...	...	...
	Nagar	...	do	3	2½	Good	

H. SCOBLE NICHOLSON.

Chittoor Circle.

Chittoor	...	Chittoor	... Paddy, Ragi & Sugar Cane	3 to 4	2 to 3	Fair	Recruiting here has so far been disappointing, but Ceylon has now been well advertised in the district, and the results of this should be apparent soon. Katpadi and Arkonam have been reaping all the good of the advertisement as Chittoor is not well enough known in Ceylon yet and 4 Forms are not drawn on this agency.
			Good				
		Kalahastri	... Paddy, Ragi & Cumbu, Fair	do	do	do	
		Karvatnagar	... do	do	do	do	
		Palmanair	... Paddy & Ragi	do	do	Indifferent	
			Good				
		Vayalpad	... do	do	do	Bad	
		Madanapalli	... do	do	do	do	
		Punganur	... Paddy, Cumbu, Ragi & Cholan	do	do	Indifferent	
			Fair				
		Chandragiri	... do	do	do	do	

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR APRIL, 1913.

District.	Taluk.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Tamil Districts.						
North Arcot	Arcot	... Paddy & Ragi	4	2	Bad	Coolies are always to be had here. It is one of the largest recruiting districts in India.
	Vellore	... do	do	do	Indifferent	
	Gudiyatam	... do	do	do	Good	
	Walaja	... do	do	do	do	
	Polur	... do	do	do	Bad	
	Tirupatur	... do	do	do	do	
	Arni	... do	do	do	Indifferent	
	Tiruvannamalai	Paddy, Ragi & Tobacco	do	do	do	
	Wandiwash	... Paddy & Ragi	do	do	Bad	
Arkonam	... do	4 to 5	2 to 3	Good		
Cheyar	... do	do	do	Fair		
Chingleput	Chingleput	... Good	4 to 6	2½ to 3½	Good	The second crop is now nearly over in this district and N. Arcot. May and June should be very successful months.
	Saidapet	... do	do	do	do	
	Ponneri	... do	do	do	do	
	Madurantakam	... do	do	do	do	
	Conjeeveram	... do	do	do	do	
	Tiruvalloor	... do	do	do	do	
South Arcot...	Villupuram	... Second crop	5	3	Indifferent.	Coolies are going more and more from here. They know Ceylon fairly well and are not afraid to go there.
	Cudalore	... Paddy is sowing and groundnut crop is in progress.	do	do	do	
	Virudachalam	... No water in the tank and well.	do	do	do	
	Tirukoilur	...	do	do	do	
	Kallakurichi	... do	do	do	do	
	Tindivanam	... do	do	do	do	
	Gingee	... do	do	do	do	
Telugu Districts.						
Cuddapah	Cuddapah	... Only one Crop	4	2	Bad	Very few recruiters have visited this district. More should come here as I am sure the prospects are good.
	Pulivendla	... do	3	do	Moderate	
	Kamalapuram	... do	3	do	do	
	Roychoty	... do	3	do	do	
	Rajampet	... do	4	do	do	
	Sidhout	... Bad	3	do	Good	
	Badvel	... do	do	do	do	
	Proddatur	... Only one Crop	6	do	Bad	
	Jamalamadugu	... do	3	do	Moderate	
Nellore	Nellore	... Paddy & Ragi	0-3-6	0-2-6	Bad	
	Suallurpet	... do	do	do	do	
	Vengatagiri	... do	do	do	do	
	Kovur	... do	do	do	Fair	
	Kavali	... Paddy, Ragi & Cholan	0-4-0	0-3-0	do	
						The inland Taluqs of Nellore should do fairly well as crops are not very abundant there.

District.	Taluq.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Telugu District.						
Nellore	...	Atmakur ...	Cholam, Ragi & Cumbu	0-4-0	0-3-0	Fair
		Udayagiri ...	do	3-3-0	0-2-6	do
		Kandukur ...	Paddy & Ragi	0-4-0	0-3-0	Bad
		Raipur ...	Paddy, Ragi & Cholam	0-3-3	0-2-6	do
		Kanigiri ...	do	do	do	do
		Podhili ...	Ragi, Cumbu & Cholam	do	do	do
		Dharsi ...	do	do	do	do
		Gudur ...	Paddy, Ragi, Cumbu, Tobacco	do	do	do
		Anantapur	•	Anantapuram ...	Bad	4
Gutty ...	do			do	do	do
Hindupur ...	do			do	do	do
Penuconda ...	do			do	do	do
Madaekira ...	do			do	do	do
Darnavaram ...	do			do	do	do
Kalyanthurity ...	do			do	do	do

Guntur Circle.

Guntur	{	Guntur	—	Cholam and				Indifferent	I believe recruiting prospects to be very good here. The Agent's "Indifferent" simply means that there are few kangaries recruiting.
				Cumbu	4 to 5	3 to 4			
		Satnapalli	...	do	do	do	do		
		Narasarvopet	...	do	do	do	do		
		Gurijala	...	do	do	do	do		
		Vinkonda	...	do	do	do	do		
		Bapatla	...	Paddy	do	do	do		
		Tenali	...	do	do	do	do		
		Raepalli	...	do	do	do	do		
		Wangole	...	Cholam and					
				Cumbu	do	do	do		

Palghat Circle, Erode Agency.

Coimbatore ...	Erode ...	The crops are fair.	3 to 4 2 to 0-2-6	Fair	The Agent reports that a Mr. Dunning is working in his jurisdiction and says he secures coolies by paying large advances in the villages, his coolies being sent direct to Tataparai and not passing through the Erode Agency.
	Bhavani ...				
	Gobichetty- poliem ...				
	Satayamangalam ...				
	Palladam ...				
	Peria Dhara- puram ...				
	Avanashi ...				
	Udamalpet ...				
	Pollachi ...				
	Kollegal ...				

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. Ceylon Labour Commissioner,
28th April, 1913.

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR APRIL, 1913.

District.	Taluk.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Palghat Circle, Dindigul Agency.						
Madura	... { Dindigul Palani ... }	Good	2 to 5	0-2-6 to 6	Good	The Agent reports that he people in the Dindigul and Palani Taluks are not at all well off at present and says that labour is procurable.

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. Ceylon Labour Commissioner,
3rd March, 1913.

Palghat Circle, Palghat and Cannanore.

Malabar	...	Palghat	...	Paddy crops not yet started, 3 to 5 fields being 2 to 0-2-6 got ready.	Good	There are hardly any Ceylon men recruiting in Malabar, coolies are available, the Straits Agent sends from 20 to 33 coolies a week.
		Walawanad	...			
		Calicut	...			
		Uthirakal	...			
		Ionani	...			
		Kottayam	...			
		Ernad	...			
		Kurumbranad	...			

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. Ceylon Labour Commissioner,
28th April, 1913.

Palghat Circle, Karur Agency.

Trichinopoly and Coimbatore	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;">{</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Karur ... Dharapuram ... </div> </div>	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Very few crops at pre- sent, har- vesting just over. </div> </div>	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 5px;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> 3 to 4 2 to 0.2-6 </div> </div>	Fair	Coolies are chiefly engaged in building and irrigation works.
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G. S. DUPEN,
Asst Ceylon Labour Commissioner,
28th April, 1913.

Madura Circle, Madura Agency.

		Madura	...				
		Melure	...				
		Periyakulam	...				
		Nelacotta	..				
		Tirumangalam	...				
		Dindigul	...	Very good in Madura and Melure Taluks, fair in the others.			
		Palani	...				
Madura	...	Tirupatur	...		4 to 5	2-6 to 3	Good
		Sivaganga	...				
		Ramnad	...				
		Paramagudi	...				
		Kamuthy	...				
		Thirupuvanam	...				
		Manamadura	...				

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. Ceylon Labour Commissioner,
4th May, 1913.

MONTHLY REPORT ON RECRUITING PROSPECTS FOR APRIL, 1913.

District.	Taluk.	Crop Prospects.	Local Wages.		Recruiting Prospects.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.		
			Annas.	Annas.		
Madura Circle., Tataparai Agency.						
Tinnevely Tataparai Agency	{ Koilpatty ... }	{ The Cotton crop is being plucked and coolies are very busy. }	4 to 5	4 to 6	Fair	The Agent reports that a large number of coolies are passing through Tataparai.

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. Ceylon Labour Commissioner,
6th May, 1913.

Madura Circle, Tinnevally Agency.

Tinnevally ...	{ Nanguneri ... }	{ The crops are good in Tenkasi and Ambasamudram, fair in the other Taluks. }	4	3	Fair	
	{ Sankaranayinar-koyil ... }					
	{ Tenkasi ... }					
	{ Ambasamudram ... }					
	{ Tinnevally ... }					
	{ Srivaikuntam ... }					
	{ Tiruchendur ... }					
	{ Covilpatti ... }					

G. S. DUPEN,
Asst. Ceylon Labour Commissioner,
4th May, 1913.

CEYLON LABOUR COMMISSION, TRICHINOPOLY.

Comparative Statement showing the number of Coolies despatched Monthly from each Agency during 1912 and 1913.

Agencies.	Years.	January.	Feb.	Total.	March.	Total.	April.	Total.
Headquarter Circle.								
Trichinopoly	... 1912	740	1,036	1,776	1,556	3,332	3,276	6,608
"	... 1913	994	1,201	2,195	1,453	2,648	4,081	7,729
Tanjore	... 1912	42	94	136	165	301	231	532
"	... 1913	109	146	255	149	404	192	596
Turaiyur	... 1912	5	32	37	6	43	28	71
"	... 1913	5	27	22	49	81	79	160
Musiri	... 1912	3	15	18	29	47	39	86
"	... 1913	20	4	24	8	32	132	164
Pudukota	... 1912	89	108	197	121	318	166	484
"	... 1913	56	111	167	65	232	228	460
Manaparai	... 1912	111	103	214	135	349	129	478
"	... 1913	224	141	365	171	536	308	844
Total...	1912	990	1,388	2,378	2,012	4,390	3,869	8,259
" ...	1913	1,408	1,630	3,038	1,895	4,933	5,020	9,953

Agencies.	Years.	January	Feb.	Total.	March.	Total.	April.	Total.
Chittoor Circle.								
Chingleput	... 1912	120	105	225	136	361	305	666
"	... 1913	99	132	231	228	454	424	878
Arkonam	... 1912	201	67	268	56	324	154	478
"	... 1913	87	112	199	78	277	164	441
Villupuram	... 1912	118	156	274	266	540	325	865
"	... 1913	166	177	343	328	671	388	1,059
Katpady	... 1912	216	257	473	140	613	177	790
"	... 1913	252	231	483	150	633	245	878
Coconada	... 1912	...	19	19	10	29	29	58
"	... 1913	6	15	21	37	58	closed	58
Cuddapah	... 1912	4	11	15	22	37	2	39
"	... 1913	15	2	17	13	30	20	50
Nellore	... 1912	9	...	9	18	27	2	29
"	... 1913	17	25	42	52	94	9	103
Guntur	... 1912	...	63	63	8	71	155	226
"	... 1913	...	...	...	...	...	22	22
Chittoor (Opened in Dec., 1912.)	... 1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	... 1913	...	...	...	2	2	13	15
Anantapur	... 1912	89	24	113	13	126	...	126
" (Closed in Sept., 1912.)	... 1913	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total...	1,912	757	702	1,459	669	2,128	1,149	3,277
"	1,913	642	694	1,336	883	2,219	1,285	3,504
Madura Circle.								
Tatapara	... 1912	256	191	447	312	759	265	1,024
"	... 1913	267	352	619	433	1,052	761	1,813
Madura	... 1912	275	355	530	293	823	355	1,178
"	... 1913	220	162	382	149	531	421	952
Tinnevely	... 1912	94	122	216	136	352	174	526
"	... 1913	121	88	209	147	356	238	594
Ammapatam	... 1912	8	54	62	60	122	119	241
"	... 1913	43	43	86	49	135	130	265
Tondi	... 1912	109	177	286	134	420	329	749
"	... 1913	111	109	220	129	349	215	564
Pamban	... 1912	8	14	22	89	111	20	131
"	... 1913	11	17	28	75	103	43	146
Total...	1912	750	813	1,563	1,024	2,587	1,262	3,849
"	1913	773	771	1,544	982	2,526	1,808	4,334
Salem Circle.								
Salem	... 1912	126	132	258	157	415	362	777
"	... 1913	63	124	187	210	397	226	623
Bangalore	... 1912	23	17	40	14	54	37	91
"	... 1913	22	29	51	18	69	14	83
Guntakal	... 1912	6	16	22	4	26	9	35
"	... 1913	76	31	107	81	188	96	284
Hubli	... 1912	...	27	27	12	39	31	70
"	... 1913	19	25	44	2	46	closed	46
Tirupathur (Opened in Oct., 1912.)	... 1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	... 1913	...	22	22	15	37	34	71
Namakkal do	... 1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	... 1913	18	15	33	58	91	55	146
Dharmapuri do	... 1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	... 1913	...	35	35	36	71	30	101
Atur do	... 1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	... 1913	3	26	29	48	77	61	138
Nanjangoda (Opened in Jan., 1913)	... 1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	... 1913	...	...	...	12	12	28	40
Total...	1912	155	192	347	187	534	439	973
"	1913	201	307	508	480	988	544	1,532

Agencies.	Years.	January.	Feb.	Total.	March.	Total.	April.	Total.
Palghat Circle.								
Erode	1912	134	135	269	144	413	224	637
"	1913	145	187	332	262	594	211	805
Diudigul	1912	75	90	165	139	304	242	546
"	1913	168	154	322	178	500	263	763
Karur	1912	46	67	113	83	196	118	314
"	1913	64	71	135	61	196	147	343
Palghat	1912	36	66	102	56	158	62	220
"	1913	84	90	174	71	245	41	286
Terur (Opened in Oct., 1913.)	1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	1913	6	5	4	10	21	closed	21
Cannanore (Opened in Jany., 1913)	1912	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
"	1913	...	2	2	15	17	9	26
Total...	1912	291	358	649	422	1,071	646	1,717
" ...	1913	467	509	976	597	1,573	671	2,244
Grand Total...	1912	2,943	3,453	6,396	4,314	10,710	7,365	18,075
" ...	1913	3,491	3,911	7,402	4,837	12,239	9,328	21,567

SALEM CIRCLE.

REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING MARCH, 1913.

I am glad to say that the improvement in the recruiting figures of this circle which I was able to show in my report for the quarter ending with December, 1912, continues. During the three months under review the Agencies of this circle have despatched 826 coolies as against 503 for the same period in 1912. Of this number the Agencies of the Salem districts, including Namakal, have despatched 591 coolies against 413 for the same quarter in 1912. This improvement would have been greater had it not been for the fact that the recruiting season this year began later than usual.

The good effect on recruiting of the improved conditions now being offered by Ceylon recruiting estates is slowly beginning to be felt in the villages, but it will still be some time before Ceylon gets the full benefit of these improvements. The coolies now returning from Ceylon are largely those who were taken over under the old conditions when the Professional recruiter was "top dog," and absurdly high advances were the order of the day. The stories told in the villages by these returned emigrants, added to the fact that they seldom, if ever, bring back any savings with them, does not constitute a good advertisement for Ceylon. Before long, however, the coolies recruited under the present improved conditions will begin to return. I hope with savings, and it is then that we may look forward to reaping a rich harvest in return for the care that has been taken to place Ceylon recruiting on a fair and business-like basis.

The value of the energetic advertising campaign which is now being undertaken cannot be overrated, and I trust that ere long it will be found possible to re-appoint the Travelling Agents who, during the short time they worked in this district, did valuable work.

During the three months under review I have been in camp 41 days, during which time I have visited 80 villages, completed 12 Agency inspections and interviewed in their villages 17 kanganies.

With the exception of the Mysore State I have no reason to notify my previous optimistic forecast of the recruiting prospects of this circle. In Mysore, however, the very large Irrigation Scheme which has just been sanctioned is likely to throw another serious obstacle in the way of our recruiting, as this scheme will mean the establishment of a brisk local demand for labour.

H. FARQUHARSON.

Chittoor,

29th April, 1913

THE CEYLON LABOUR COMMISSIONER,
TRICHINOPOLY.

DEAR SIR,

APRIL CAMP.

During this Camp I covered :—

By Train	... 60 Miles.
By Road	... 132 "

Total ... 192 Miles.

On the 11th April I went to Paradarami and remained there also the following day. This is quite a bilingual village. The people seem to speak Tamil and Telugu alternately. When I called for the village Munsiff he told me that he had some idea of going to Ceylon himself. He gave me a lot of help, calling the villagers

round him several times and speaking to them while I stood beside him and answered questions. The people seemed very interested but a little sceptical. I believe that one or two are thinking of going to Houpe Estate.

The next day I went on to Gudiyatham and spent two days there. Here Tamil is spoken, but I found many educated people able to read Telugu, and I gave out a good many Telugu notices. I was unfortunate in not being able to see either the Thasildar or the Munsiff, but I met the Sub-Collector, Mr. Soldana, whose headquarters are at Thirupathur. Mr. Soldana was at once interested in my work and considerably more so when I explained to him the nature of the Commission. He told me that it was he who had made up the decennial census returns for the district, and was able to say how many coolies went to Ceylon every year. I told him that his figures agreed very well with ours since most of the coolies had gone through our agencies. I understand from Mr. Soldana that North Arcot is the second heaviest district in India for emigration and yet the population is increasing rapidly. Mr. Soldana said that the people of this district were normally well off and wages were increasing, but that they were very impatient of the slightest adversity and emigrated at the smallest pinch of their comforts. Yet Mr. Soldana was surprisingly ignorant of the object and organisation of the Ceylon Labour Commission. I have found that this is generally the case with Government Officials, but I was surprised that an official who had done so much statistical work should be so ignorant of the methods of the Commission.

From Gudivattham I went on to Pernampattu Forest Bungalow on the 16th. I had picked this place out as being at the junction of several roads, and I spent the next two days visiting all the villages between Pernampattu and Ambur and Mailpatti and a short distance along the Venkatagirikota road. I did not go to Venkatagirikota, as I found that the road was too hilly for the cycle. About four miles along this road where I was stopped by a broad sandy river-bed with a very steep take off on the farther side continuing for miles into the mountains, I found a youngster who could only read Telugu. About three-quarters of a mile on the way back I had to get two men to push my cycle up to very steep hills that started directly up from the sand of river-bed, so that I could not get my engine started. With these men was a little boy who could read nothing but Tamil. I made him also read out a notice (my last Tamil one) to an audience and promise to take it to his village and do the same there. Tamil and Telugu overlap very curiously in these parts.

On the 19th I went to Mailapatti by road with my saman and thence by rail to Ambur, thus saving the crossing of two sandy rivers which I had done before. I remained in Ambur till the Monday morning. On that day, however, I received instructions to take charge of Salem Circle and proceeded the next morning direct to Chittoor.

Pernampattu itself is full of Mohammedans and I do not think recruiting there would be very successful. The Village Munsiff is himself a Mohammedan and appears to have a good deal of influence, but there is a lot of business

done and the people rather well off. In the villages round about Pernampattu and Ambur, however, I think a good deal might be done.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. RUTHERFORD LEE,
Assistant Ceylon Labour Commissioner.

Miscellaneous

Extract from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Nilgiri Planters' Association held at the Armoury, Ootacamund, on Friday, the 28th March, 1913.

Labour.—We have during the year discussed a Registration Scheme and you will have seen from the annual report of the W. P. Association that there is little likelihood of its being put into force even in an amended form. The discussion on the scheme has, as far as I am aware, not started "even brain waves." Personally I think considerable improvement can be gained by planters working more together. If a planter has a rogue of a mai try now, he has one aim and that is to plant the rotter on someone else and recover his advance and when he has succeeded he pats himself on his back and thinks himself smart. It would have been more to the interests of the whole community of which he is one if he branded the rogue and suffered his loss. I think something might be gained if Honorary Secretaries of Associations kept a register of maistries employed by all members of their Associations. In this way if a maistry came to a member for advance he might probably by referring to the Honorary Secretary of his Association find something about the man's past history, or if the maistry came from some other district, a reference to the Honorary Secretary of the Association of that district might bring the required information. I should like to see it go further and that planters agreed to advance no new maistry without first making a reference to his own Honorary Secretary. I am certain the maistry of to-day is not the same kind of man he was when I first started planting in Ceylon 26 years ago. He has deteriorated, and I shall not attempt to try and find reasons for this. From what one reads in papers I have only 4 years more before I ought to be put on the shelf to make room for some more up-to-date youth. I shall read you to-day a letter written by a late assistant Tea-maker of mine who came from Ceylon and returned back there addressed to a cooly of my estate. He informs the cooly that his superior has asked him to procure 20 or 30 Canarese coolies. Is this an up-to-date method of recruiting labour? I would then warn you all against engaging "Ceylon Tea-makers or Conductors."

(The Tea-maker was dismissed by his employer in Ceylon immediately that the above complaint was made known to him.—Ed.)

Extract from The Planters' Chronicle, May 3rd, 1913.

The proceedings of the Nilgiri Planters' Association are printed. The Honorary Secretary in his report refers to an unpleasant incident, of a Ceylon Tea-maker once was in his employment, who, on his return to Ceylon, attempted to crimp some of the Honorary Secretary's coolies. The matter was represented to Ceylon Planters' Association and through them to the would-be crimper's employer who at once dismissed him from his employment. The thanks of the Planting Community are due to the employer and to the Ceylon Planters' Association for their prompt treatment of this case. We are confident that all cases of a like nature if brought to their notice will receive the same prompt and courteous consideration from the Ceylon Planters' Association. It is a pity that all irregular and unauthorised recruiters cannot be treated in the same way.

**Extract from The Planters' Association of Malaya.
Chairman's Report to the Sixth Annual Meeting, April
27th, 1913.**

RUBBER.

At the end of 1906, there were approximately 100,000 acres of Rubber planted in the Peninsula. Subsequent annual extensions may safely be put at:—

1907	...	...	76,000 acres.
1908	...	...	58,000 "
1909	...	...	56,000 "
1910	...	...	71,000 "
1911	...	...	64,000 "
1912	...	...	27,000 "

giving a total of 452,000 acres planted to the end of last year. While extensions will no doubt continue to be made, in accordance with programmes already undertaken, they will probably in the next few years be at a slower rate.

OUTPUT.

The F. M. S. exports for 1912 were 15,499 tons, an increase over the previous year of 76 per cent. The output of the whole Peninsula was, approximately, 20,300 tons. This compares with previous years as follows:—

1906	...	...	430 tons.
1907	...	...	885 "
1908	...	...	1,629 "
1909	...	...	3,340 "
1910	...	...	6,504 "
1911	...	...	10,782 "
1912	...	...	20,327 "

The distribution of exports from the Peninsula was as follows:—

To	FROM PORT SWETTENHAM.		FROM SINGAPORE.		FROM PENANG.	
	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.	1911	1912.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	4,132	7,467	2,305	4,741	2,176	4,197
Continent of Europe	553	1,030	161	163	5	12
Ceylon	381	403	11	1	165	114
America	...	10	445	1,362	...	1
Elsewhere	...	...	190	268	...	...
Total	5,066	8,910	2,812	6,535	2,346	4,324

It is safe to assume, over the country as a whole, yields of, from five and six years' old rubber, on the average, one ton from 10 acres; from seven and eight years' old rubber, one ton from 7 acres; and from nine years' old rubber, one ton from 5 acres. This basis of calculation is justified by the annual outputs so far recorded.

On this basis the production of the Peninsula for 1913 may be estimated at 29,900 tons, and for succeeding year at:—

1914	...	...	40,500 tons.
1915	...	...	51,800 "
1916	...	...	65,000 "

It may be asserted with confidence that, together with the rapid increase in output, the quality of the rubber turned out continues to be steadily improved. There are now few branches of rubber manufacture in which plantation rubber is not employed. What chiefly calls for attention at present is the necessity of standardising our product; the best form in which to prepare plantation rubber being still an open question, and one the decision of which is of capital importance.

In the cost of production, also, there is a steady improvement; certain of the senior estates now placing their rubber f.o.b. at about or under 10d. per lb.

LABOUR.

The recruiting of Tamil Labour is still controlled by the Immigration Committee which now pays all Railway expense in India, steamship passages to Straits Ports, and quarantine expenses on disembarkation of all coolies recruited on the Committee's licenses, the expenses being met by an assessment on all employers of labour. The following statistics supplied by the Committee show the growth of immigration from South Indian ports during recent years:—

	Arrivals.	Departures.	Nett Gain.
1905	39,539	19,754	19,785
1906	52,041	21,879	30,162
1907	62,274	30,522	31,752
1908	54,522	30,920	23,602
1909	49,817	31,374	18,443
1910	83,723	39,080	44,643
1911	108,471	48,103	60,368
1912	106,628	63,885	43,043

Of the total number of immigrants about 75 per cent. now come over on free tickets provided by the Committee. The above table illustrates not only the growth of the Tamil population, but also its mobility. Coolies now move between this country and the coast with great freedom; nine or ten months being sufficient for an industrious coolie to earn the amount of money he wishes to take back with him. The Straits have become well-known in most parts of the Madras Presidency; and large numbers of Tamil now regularly come over and return in alternate years.

Some indication of the value to India of the development of the Peninsula may be derived from the figures of remittances by Money Order to India through our Postal Departments, by which I am supplied with the following figures.

	1910.	1911.	1912.
F. M. S.	2,812,006	3,407,017	4,295,646
Straits Settlements	2,101,630	2,417,862	2,872,632
Total	4,913,636	5,824,879	7,168,278

These are mainly composed of small sums remitted by agricultural labourers to their villages in India. The totals moreover of post office remittances are certainly exceeded by the sums carried home with them by returning emigrants.

Having regard to the constantly increasing requirements of the country, the most important deduction from the above returns of immigration appears to be that our present recruiting grounds must be considered to be fairly fully exploited. This confirms the actual experience of planters, which is that it becomes more difficult each year, in face of the competition of young estates, for the older estates to maintain their labour forces. In the case of young estates it is a more difficult and expensive matter than formerly to establish a force at all.

The Association has, during the past year, brought pressure to bear upon the Indian Immigration Committee to open up new territory by improving communications with the more northerly portions of Madras. Considerable numbers of Telugus already find their way across despite the difficulty of a long railway journey to Madras; and it is reasonable to suppose this source of supply might be greatly developed by a little encouragement. The unique attractions of this country to coolie labour require only to be made known; and since the Committee are entrusted by law with the exclusive control of recruiting, employers have a right, in face of the existing demand, to look to that authority for a forward policy.

The total estate population of the Peninsula may be estimated at 214,000. Of these about 67,000 are Chinese; so that, despite the success attending Indian recruiting in the last six or seven years, it is not alone responsible for the supply of labour having so far on the whole kept pace with the demand. We owe more than is sometimes realised to the spontaneous and unaided immigration of free Chinese, who solve a good many of the most difficult planting propositions in Malaya.

The Javanese employed do not, probably, exceed 46,000. The possibility of increasing the numbers of Javanese, who make excellent estate labour under judicious management, and

develop in many cases into ideal settlers, has been much to the fore during the past year. The Netherlands Indian Government, however, permit recruiting on indenture only, and while ready to renew the permits of the employers who have recruited Javanese in the past, have for some years been unwilling to encourage the emigration of their subjects on a largely increased scale.

There is some prospect of improving the conditions of Javanese recruiting but with that, for the time being, we shall probably have to be satisfied.

As rubber comes under the tapping knife the increased employment of Malays is a noticeable feature in some neighbourhoods, but the total amount of employment afforded in this way to the natives of the country is not yet very considerable.

Extract from the Fort St. George Gazette, dated the 6th May, 1913.

CHINGLEPUT.

Water-supply sufficient. Ploughing and sowing of paddy and gingelly, weeding and transplanting of paddy and ragi in progress. Standing crops fair. Harvested paddy and ragi; outturn fair. Pasture scarce in parts of one taluk and fodder generally available. Condition of cattle good. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects fair.

MADRAS.

Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient.

SOUTH ARCOT.

Water-supply insufficient in parts of three taluks. Ploughing, sowing of paddy, ragi, indigo groundnut and planting of sugarcane, transplanting and weeding of paddy and ragi proceeding in parts. Standing crops fair. Harvested paddy, ragi, cholam, groundnut and sugarcane; outturn fair. Pasture insufficient except in four taluks; fodder sufficient. Condition of cattle generally good. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects fair.

CHITTOOR.

Water-supply sufficient. Ploughing, sowing of gingelly, cholam and ragi and transplanting and weeding of sugarcane in progress. Standing crops generally fair. Harvested paddy, sugarcane, ragi and cholam; outturn fair to normal. Pasture available except in parts of one taluk; fodder available. Condition of cattle generally good, but black-quarter in parts. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects good.

NORTH ARCOT.

Water-supply generally insufficient. Ploughing, sowing of second crop paddy, transplanting and weeding of paddy and ragi and planting sugarcane in progress. Standing crops generally fair. Harvested paddy, ragi and sugarcane; outturn fair to normal. Pasture scarce in four taluks and two divisions; fodder available. Condition to cattle generally good, but foot-and-mouth disease in one taluk. Employment available. Grain stocks sufficient. Prospects generally fair.

SALEM.

Water-supply insufficient except in parts of three taluks. Sowing of paddy, cumbu, cholam and gingelly, planting of sugarcane and transplanting of paddy and ragi, in progress in parts. Standing crops good. Harvested paddy and sugarcane; outturn fair to normal; ragi and cholam, poor to normal. Pasture scarce in one taluk and parts of another; fodder available. Condition of cattle good. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects fair.

COIMBATORE.

Water-supply generally sufficient; 5 feet of water in the Cauvery at Erode. Ploughing and sowing of cholam and ragi proceeding in parts. Standing crops fair. Harvested paddy in parts; outturn normal. Pasture scanty; fodder generally available. Condition of cattle generally good, but anthrax in one village. Employment available. Grain-stocks generally sufficient. Prospects generally fair?

TRICHINOPOLY.

Water-supply insufficient except under river channels. Sowing of cholam and transplanting of paddy and cholam in progress in parts. Standing crops fair. Harvested paddy; outturn fair to normal; cholam, normal. Pasture and fodder generally sufficient. Condition of cattle generally good. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects fair.

TANJORE.

Water-supply insufficient in three taluks. No flower over Grand Anikat and supply inadequate. Tobacco cultivation in progress in parts of one taluk. Standing crops generally fair. Harvested gingelly, tobacco, maize and paddy; outturn fair. Pasture generally sufficient; fodder available. Condition of cattle generally good, but malignant sorethroat in two taluks, foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest each in one taluk. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects generally fair.

PUDUKKOTTAI.

Water-supply insufficient. Cultivation of paddy and garden crops in progress in parts. Standing crops fair. Pasture insufficient; fodder sufficient. Condition of cattle good. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects fair but want of rain felt in parts.

MADURA.

Water-supply generally insufficient; no discharge from Peranai reported. Ploughing, sowing of paddy and cholam and transplanting of paddy in progress. Standing crops fair. Harvested paddy, ragi and cholam; outturn fair. Pasture scanty in three taluks; fodder scanty in one taluk. Condition of cattle good. Grain-stocks generally sufficient. Employment available. Prospects fair.

RAMNAD.

Water-supply generally insufficient. Ploughing and sowing of second crop paddy and ragi in progress in parts. Standing crops fair to good. Harvested paddy, cumbu, ragi and cotton; outturn fair. Pasture scanty in parts; fodder available. Condition of cattle good. Grain-stocks sufficient. Employment available. Prospects fair.

GUNTUR.

Water-supply insufficient. Manuring of lands for next season in progress. Standing crops fair to good. Harvested cotton; outturn fair. Pasture scanty; fodder sufficient. Condition of cattle generally good, but black-quarter in one taluk. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects fair.

TINNEVELLY.

Water-supply sufficient. No flow over Srivaikuntam Anikat, but discharge sufficient. Ploughing in progress. Standing Crops good. Harvested paddy and cholam, outturn poor to fair, gingelly, poor. Pasture insufficient in parts, fodder available. Condition of cattle generally good. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects fair.

MALABAR.

Water-supply sufficient. Sowing of seed for first crop in progress. Pasture scanty, fodder available. Condition of cattle generally good, but hæmorrhagic septicaemia in one ansam. Grain-stocks sufficient. Employment available. Prospects fair.

CUDDAPAH.

Water-supply sufficient except in parts. Ploughing and sowing of indigo in progress. Standing crops fair. Harvested paddy, ragi, turmeric, gingelly and cotton; outturn fair to normal. Pasture scanty; fodder available. Condition of cattle good, but foot-and-mouth disease in parts of one taluk. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects fair.

NELLORE.

Water-supply generally sufficient except in parts. No flow over Nellore Anikat; no report from Sangam; discharge from Nellore Anikat insufficient. Sowing and weeding of paddy in progress. Standing crops fair to good generally. Harvested paddy, ragi, cholam, arika and horsegram; outturn fair to normal. Pasture and fodder generally sufficient. Condition of cattle generally good, but black-quarter in parts. Employment available. Grain-stocks sufficient. Prospects good.

Extract from the proceedings of the Thirty-second Annual General Meeting of the Indian Tea Association, held on Friday, the 21st February, 1913.

Labour.—The present position is clearly stated in the report, and it can serve no useful purpose to further discuss questions which are now before the Government of India. I am glad to have the opportunity of congratulating the tea industry on having at last got a majority in favour of a settled line of action with regard to the labour problem. It is particularly gratifying to me, because the policy decided on is one which I advocated from this Chair five years ago.

Labour Bureau.—This is part and parcel of the Labour Question, but as the originator of the scheme perhaps it will not be out of place if I do something more than make a passing reference to it. Schemes which have been put forward in the past have, in my opinion, failed because they have sought to effect an arbitrary distribution of labourers. They have also aimed at a monopoly for some recruiting organisation. The first is not only an interference with the natural law of supply and demand, but is an attempt to put all tea gardens on the same level as to health surroundings and general popularity. Any one who knows the labour districts knows that this is impossible. The second is repugnant to many people. However well it may sound in theory, the very idea of a monopoly is objectionable. In the Bureau scheme the idea is to create machinery for supervising recruiting. The Bureau would take no active part in recruiting, and would not therefore have anything to do with the distribution of labour. There would be no monopoly. It would be open to any concern to recruit through one of the existing Associations, or to make its own arrangements in the recruiting districts. It would be the duty of the Bureau to see that all recruiting was carried on in a legitimate manner. It would be, in fact, co-operation by proprietors with Government to put down abuses which now exist. If we do this, I feel confident that Government will do all in its power to assist us. We ought, in my opinion, to drop the attitude which has been taken up in the past, and which many are inclined to take up to-day, i.e., that it is the duty of Government to stop abuses. If we persist in this attitude it can only lead to prohibitive legislation, which must adversely affect all recruiting. After all, gentlemen, when one comes to analyse the position, who are the offenders? Why, proprietors themselves. In these circumstances it must be obvious to any one that it is absurd to say to Government: "Give us greater freedom for our sirdari recruiting," and in the next breath to ask for legislation to stop abuses which we ourselves countenance. Speaking with a considerable knowledge of the subject, I saw that there are only two courses open: (1) co-operation on the part of the proprietors; or (2) prohibitive legislation by the Government of India. The first at any rate holds some hope of success, whilst the latter spells disaster.

The Bureau scheme is now being considered by the Government of India and if it is pronounced feasible, I hope everyone connected with the industry will see the necessity of giving it a fair trial.

"EXTRACT FROM TROPICAL LIFE, APRIL, 1913."

In our January issue we published an article showing how the use of cableways was tending to increase on all sides, and urging a further extension of this useful and comparatively inexpensive method of transport. Since doing so we have received the weekly edition of the *Times of Ceylon* of February 6, which we were pleased to see contained three long and influentially written articles urging the authorities to construct lines, the main reason for doing so being to reduce the labour of hand transport,

as a general labour-saving conveyance, and to relieve the island's transport system which seems to need being augmented to avoid the serious congestion that arises through insufficient road and rail conveyances.

We have so often claimed the well-known advantages of aerial ropeways that we rather demur at repeating them; still, we will state what others say, as they fully confirm what we have written on the subject. They state that this method of transport should be adopted on account of:—

- (1) Small initial cost compared with roads and bridges.
- (2) Extreme simplicity in working.
- (3) Ability to transport material in a direct line over precipitous ground, rivers, defiles, &c.
- (4) Small consumption of power as compared with the tonnage transportable.
- (5) Low cost of upkeep and depreciation.
- (6) Great capacity for transport, as much as 40 tons each way per day of ten hours being handled on the type of line erected in Ceylon, and much more being possible if required.
- (7) Small demand for labour for loading and receiving.

There are two distinct types of cableways, viz., the fixed rope system, and the moving one. The latter is the one employed throughout Ceylon, and is thoroughly suitable for the light loads usually handled here, and for almost all gradients met with.

An aerial ropeway of this type is, as a rule, constructed to carry loads of an average of 150 lbs. each at intervals of one per minute, and at a speed of $3\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 miles per hour, but the frequency and weight of the loads can be largely increased. Such cableways will also meet the most ordinary requirements in Ceylon, such as breadth of span, steepness of gradient, though with gradients of over 1 in 2.5 special carriers may become necessary. As regards cost, the most economical type of line is one 3 to 4 miles in length over a regular succession of hills and valleys, and in proportion to the abundance of rivers, and bad ground that a cart road (or railway) would have to cross, the cableway becomes the more economical since it requires no bridges, no filling in, and no drainage or other costly work before the road proper can be prepared. Even where easy gradients and lack of obstacles make the cost of roads fairly cheap, the initial cost of the ropeway is unlikely to exceed that of the road; but even were it to do so, a distinct and permanent profit would be made on account of the labour-saving, and hence cheaper means of transport which would be provided for those having goods to send to and from.

Coming now to the question of upkeep, the *Times of Ceylon* correspondent goes fully into this also. Apart from the cost of loading and unloading, there should only be an occasional visit from a mechanic to shorten the cable, repair splices, &c., plus a small annual sum for renewal of hangers, wheels and bearings, and for paint, oil, grease, &c. Such upkeep will vary on different estates, or "ways" according to the tonnage passed over them, the care bestowed in using them, and on their upkeep whilst in use.

Coming to cable renewals, capital redemption, &c., sufficient money must be put by to meet these. It is sound practice to write off a sufficient sum to cover the cost of the entire way in twenty years. The cable, under exceptional wear or unfavourable conditions, may require

to be renewed after the third year, but under ordinary circumstances it should last for six years. Great care and most favourable conditions could see a cable last for ten years, but to do so it is doubtful if it would be working at full pressure all the time. The Ceylon authority estimates the cost of cable renewal at about Rs. 2,700 to Rs. 3,000 (£180 to £200) per mile between terminals, erected and running.

The labour required to work the line is bound to vary on account of the gradients, the length of the line, the number of angles, &c.; on an ordinary straight line driven from a factory shaft the following staff is required (in Ceylon):—

(1) For each intermediate loading station from which loading is in progress, two coolies,

(2) For each terminal, two coolies, but possibly more if traffic is heavy.

(3) For patrolling the line, one coolie.

As, however, such a line will transport 40 tons a day each way, even if above numbers have to be increased the saving in wages and cost of transport generally must be substantial when one thinks of the number of coolies it would take to transport 80 tons of stuff by other means. Both in upkeep and cost of transport, therefore, cableways seem able to show a great advantage over cart roads, and added to this there is the saving in the value of the land that cart roads or railways occupy, plus the cost and upkeep of the cattle, the carts and their drivers.

"From the very commencement of my term of office," reported Sir Henry McCallum, then Governor of Ceylon, in his Review of the administration of Ceylon for the years 1907-13, "I have been impressed by the difficulties of road transport in Ceylon. These difficulties, which are of course greatly accentuated in the hill districts, have for the past few years been immeasurably increased by the unfortunate recrudescence of rinderpest in epidemic form. Transport by bullock cart is at the best a slow and unsatisfactory process, but when there is added the wholesale death or slaughter of draft cattle and the restriction of traffic between one district and another the situation becomes one of considerable gravity." To show that the matter is still a burning one we need only add that as recently as March 8th last, a joint deputation of the Planters' Association of Ceylon and the Chamber of Commerce waited on His Excellency the Acting Governor at Queen's House, by appointment to represent to His Excellency the difficulties of road transport at present experienced in Ceylon, which have formed the subject of some luminous speeches at the recent annual meeting of the Planters' Association of Ceylon.

SNAKES.

For the extremely interesting article on snakes given below the Editor is indebted to Mr. A. F. Abercrombie, formerly a Matale Planter and now a naturalist resident in Anuradhapura.

Some idea of his activities can be gathered from the following P. S. to a letter lately received from him.

"I would very much like to come and look you up, but am afraid I will not be up that way for some time, as I have to despatch a lot of things to England. 50 Kabragoyas, 50 Talagoyas, 158 Snakes, 150 Lizards, 50 Blood suckers, 50 Tortoises, and I do

not know when I will get the collection complete, while the despatch of such a quantity is enough to result in nervous breakdown."

The Snakes of the Planting Districts of Ceylon.

Although it is impossible to state definitely the number of varieties of snakes found in the Planting Districts, or rather that country bounded by Colombo, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Kandy and Matale, the list is approximately as follows, and contains both the largest and smallest of Eastern snakes, the Python and the Typhlops Mirus:—

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Typhlops Braminus. | 23. Zamenis Mucosus. |
| 2. Typhlops Mirus. | 24. Zamenis Lasciolatus. |
| 3. Python Molurus. | 25. Coluber Helena. |
| 4. Cylindrophis Maculatus. | 26. Dendrophis Pictus. |
| 5. Uropeltis Grandis. | 27. Dendrophis Caudolineolatus. |
| 6. Rhinophis Oxysrhynchus. | 28. Tropidonotus Asperimus. |
| 7. Rhinophis Planiceps. | 29. Tropidonotus Stolicus. |
| 8. Rhinophis Blythii. | 30. Tropidonotus Plumbicolor. |
| 9. Silybura Melanogaster. | 31. Helicops Schistosus. |
| 10. Aspidura Brachyrrhos. | 32. Dipsas Ceylonensis. |
| 11. Aspidura Coppil. | 33. Dryophis Mycterizans. |
| 12. Aspidura Trachyprocta. | 34. Dryophis Pulverulentus. |
| 13. Haplocereus Ceylonensis. | 35. Chrysopelea Ornata. |
| 14. Lycodon Carinatus. | 36. Callioptis Trimaclatus. |
| 15. Lycodon Aulicus. | 37. Bungarus Ceylonicus. |
| 16. Polyodontophis Subpunctatus. | 38. Naia Tripudians. |
| 17. Ablabes Calamaria. | 39. Vipera Russellii. |
| 18. Simotes Arnensis. | 40. Ancistrodon Hypnale. |
| 19. Oligodon Templetonii. | 41. Trimeresurus Trigonicephalus. |
| 20. Oligodon Sublineatus. | |
| 21. Oligodon Subgriseus. | |
| 22. Oligodon Elliotti. | |

It will be seen that the number of *deadly* snakes found in this region is fortunately very slight, being only three—the "Tic Polonga" (*Vipera Russellii*) the Cobra (*Naia Tripudians*) and the Krait (*Bungarus Ceylonicus*). This latter is a very rare snake, while the "Tic Polonga," which ascends to 7,000 feet at Kodaikanal in India, is rarely found above 3,000 feet in Ceylon, while the Cobra likewise ceases to be common above 3,500 feet. It may not be out of place to give here a description of the poisonous and deadly snakes, as much mental suffering is sometimes occasioned to persons bitten, by their imagining harmless snakes to be deadly ones—and much physical suffering, by their mistaking poisonous snakes for harmless ones. There is unfortunately no fixed rule for the identification of poisonous snakes except on examination of the teeth—and to use "a bull" you do not usually see a snake's teeth until you feel them. By far the simplest way to recognise a poisonous snake is to see and remember the appearance of each species, which in Ceylon, where the poisonous snakes are few in number, with (in several cases) striking external characteristics, is not a very difficult business. Even the best descriptions of snakes are somewhat inadequate, and specimens, which from descriptions appear to be very similar in appearance, will, when seen together, show striking dissimilarities.

The only snake the Cobra is liable to be confused with is the Ratsnake (*Zamenis Mucosus*), but in this case also, anyone who has seen the two together will be unlikely to confuse them in future. In this case the hood of the Cobra is of little use as a distinguishing characteristic, as it will sometimes keep it closed, while the Ratsnake will often inflate its neck with air in imitation of the Cobra

hood. This imitation of poisonous snakes by harmless ones either in the way of appearance or behaviour is not at all uncommon.

The Cobra has a distinguishing feature, broad black bars across the undersurface, with the upper surface of the body distinctly mottled, speckled or flaked with a lightish shade, while the ventrals of the Ratsnake are uniform in colour, as is the upper surface.

The Cobra lives in antheaps and likes to be near human habitation, where it preys on the rats and young chickens. The character of the Cobra has been much maligned, so much so, that when I experienced my first Cobra hunt at an up-Country bungalow, and we turned out with sticks and fire to drive it from its refuge—a hole in the kitchen garden—I wondered at our intrepidity, and looked round for a clear space to retreat by, in the case of a lightning attack by the reptile. However the Cobra was shy and would not show itself, though a few days later I saw the garden cooly killing what looked like a very frightened elongated worm, with a small stick,—that was the end of the “Hooded Death.”

Unlike the “King Cobra” or “Hamadryad” (*Naia Bungarus*) not found in Ceylon the Cobra is not at all an aggressive snake, and even when seized by the tail, when disappearing into the jungle will draw itself away sooner than turn and strike.

Five feet three inches is the size of a large Cobra, but one comes across occasional “giants,” and I have the skin of one caught at Anuradhapura, 7½ feet in length, though this is by no means a record for Ceylon, though a very unusual size.

The poison of a Cobra will kill a poisonous snake of another order, and it is not an uncommon thing for this snake to swallow a “Russell’s Viper” (*Tic Polonga*), and I caught the large Cobra mentioned above in the act of swallowing a large Tic.

As the latter is a powerful snake, the poison of the Cobra must have killed it to enable it to have been swallowed.

The “Tic Polonga” (*Viper Russellii*), from the length of its fangs and its sluggish disposition is by far the most dangerous snake in Ceylon, though it is rarely met with in the daytime except when jungle is being cleared, as it is nocturnal in habit. A short fat snake of a russet or brown colour, with a triangular scale covered head and large black chain pattern or series of more or less confluent leaf-shaped rings along the back, it resembles no other snake in the Island. Patnas are its favourite haunts in the hills, while lower down it is numerous on Cocoa Estates, particularly in the Matale District where the black-edged leaf-shaped marks on its back render it inconspicuous among the dead leaves.

These being terrestrial snakes and rarely striking above three inches from the ground, leather boots are the best protection against them, and those who enter newly felled jungle in shoes, run a greatly increased chance of losing their life by snake bite, though even this chance is only an extremely slight one. By far the greater number of deaths by snake bite occur among natives, and about 80 per cent. (as far as I have been able to determine) of these bites, are inflicted on the foot, which is not only due to the absence of the protection, afforded by boots, but also to the absence of audible warning of man’s approach which boots convey to the snake.

The remaining deadly snake the “Krait” (*Bungarus Ceylonicus*) is rarely met with, and is noticeable on account of the black and white bands with which its body is surrounded.

There is however a very common harmless snake, the colour of which is much the same as that of the “Krait.” This little snake, the “Karawila” (*Lycodon Aulicus*) has further two elongate teeth in imitation of poison fangs, but differs from the “Krait” in having a pear-shaped head, while its ventral surface is uniform white in colour, and the scales more or less of the same size. In the “Krait” the head is rounded, with the eyes rather far forwards, the ventral surface (except in the young) is crossed by wide black bars, and the scales along the spine are enlarged and hexagonal in shape. Any black and white banded snake about 30 inches in length would probably be a “Krait.”

There is another small front-fanged snake, the *Callophis Trimaculatus*, that is extremely rare, and of so small a size that it is doubtful whether it could do much injury even if the fangs were long enough to penetrate the skin. It is closely allied to the American Coral snakes, and the undersurface is of bright scarlet, and pale blue under the tail, with a black blotch or ring at apex and base of same. The upper surface is brown with large black spots some distance apart from each other, much resembling the upper surface of many of the small earthsnakes and harmless Colubrinae. The *Callophis* is very slender and averages about 14 inches in length. I have obtained two specimens of this snake at Matale, and also one at Kokobe in the Anuradhapura District.

There are two other front-fanged snakes found in the Planting Districts, both of them vipers, but seldom deadly—the so-called “Green Tic Polonga” (*Trimeresurus Trigonoccephalus*) and the “Kunukatuwa” (*Ancistrodon Hypnale*).

The “Green Tic” is very common on Tea Estates, particularly around Matale and Kandy, and is often found on tea bushes, and woe betide the luckless cooly, who mistakes its head for “flush!” This snake is of a bright emerald green colour, with slight, and often indistinct black markings upon the back, thickest body and yellow undersurface, and very distinct pear-shaped head. It should not be confused with the practically harmless “Green Whipsnake,” which is an extremely slender snake with a long narrow head and pointed snout from the end of which a sort of fleshy protruberance extends to about 1/8th of an inch.

The bite of the “Green Tic” is about equal in virulence to that of the English Adder, and seldom causes death, though it may produce a severe swelling and temporary numbness of the bitten part. Its average length is from 2 to 2½ feet.

The “Kunukatuwa,” often misnamed the “Karawila,” is a small greyish brown viper of a “dusty” appearance with large alternating black spots along each side of the vertebra, and known as “Sirruttai” (Cigar or Cheroot snake) by the Tamils. This little snake seldom exceeds 19 inches in length and when frightened will proceed along the ground with short leaps. This habit which is also common to the “so-called” water snakes mentioned further on has given rise to the belief that the “Tic Polonga” can jump, which is not the case. The bite of the

"Kunukatuwa" is seldom severe, even less so than that of the "Green Tic," though a dog might die from it if bitten on the neck.

It is found in great numbers on coconut estates, under leaves and dead wood, and is more numerous in the low-country than in the hills. To pass on to the harmless snakes, the Ratsnake (*Zamenis Mucosus*) is probably the commonest snake in the East, and in Ceylon is found practically everywhere. Drawing itself slowly like a long black streak across a path, or undulating rapidly down a tea slope, it is a familiar sight to Ceylon residents. As its name implies, its chief diet is rats, in pursuit of which it will often enter houses, and such is its speed, being the quickest of Ceylon snakes, that it will pursue and overtake a rat in the open turning with lightning rapidity and seizing the rat in mid air, as it leaps to one side in a last effort to escape. At such times it will often pass quite close to one, being of ferocious disposition and intent only on the chase.

A nine foot Ratsnake will afford a fair amount of sport if taken by the tail, on account of its extreme activity and fierce character.

Rock holes and anthrills are its dwellings, and it will often climb trees to feed on young birds, while it is most frequently seen out in wet weather.

The low-country Ratsnake is larger and fiercer than the Up-country one, and will sometimes grow to over 10 feet in length.

The Lasciolated Ratsnake (*Zamenis Fasciolatus*) is also occasionally found. It resembles the Ratsnake proper, but does not grow to so large a size, while the scales are smooth instead of being "keeled" (a raised ridge along the centre of each scale.)

The second commonest snake is the pretty "Green Whipsnake" (*Dryophis Mycterizans*) sometimes called the "Eyepecker," though its eyepecking propensities are without foundation. The Whipsnake is a tree-dweller and live on geckoes and small birds. The body is very muscular in spite of its slenderness, and when hanging by its tail round a branch, the snake can draw its body in a series of graceful curves, and is thereby enabled to strike and seize its prey at a considerable distance. Before striking it sways itself from side to side in order to obtain a correct balance, but even then frequently misses its stroke.

A peculiar feature of this snake is a fleshy projection on the end of its pointed snout, the object of which is unknown, though presumably, it serves as a sort of buffer to protect the delicate nose, in case the snake should miss, when striking its prey when the latter is on a perpendicular surface, such as a lizard on a tree trunk.

Although usually regarded as a harmless snake, it has two back teeth grooved for poison, but the result of its bite on man is practically nil, even if the back teeth penetrate.

The "Maldunda" (*Dendrophis Pictus*) is found on trees and bushes. It is an exceedingly pretty snake with a smooth glossy appearance, and is very common all over the Planting Districts. Owing to its lateral "keels" or enlarged shields on each side, it is enabled to climb up a tree trunk in a straight line, and is very rapid in its

movements. The skin is exceedingly delicate and, if the snake is killed and skinned, will become when dry almost transparent, as does the skin of the Whipsnake.

The colours of the "Maldunda" are difficult to describe, but the prevailing colour of the body is copper, or light brown, and when the scales near the neck are expanded the bright blue interstitial skin is visible. The lips are yellow and there is a broad yellow line along each side, while the undersurface is either yellow or pale green. The "Maldunda" grows to 4 feet in length.

On the lower hill slopes and in the low-country, the so-called "Water Snake" abounds. This is not a true Watersnake, but only an aquatic variety of the ordinary land snake, not having undergone any particular modifications for life in the water, except that the skin is tightly attached above the vertebrae, and the compactness thus obtained renders the snake a powerful swimmer, and very active in its movements.

Sometimes found far from water, but usually inhabiting streams and paddy fields, the water snake preys on fish and frogs, both of which it devours in a very voracious manner.

When closely pursued on land it will proceed in a series of short jumps, and when irritated puffs out its neck in imitation of the Cobra, or its body, in imitation of the "Tic Polonga."

The colours and pattern on this snake vary perhaps more than in any other snake in Ceylon. The usual colour is white, pale pink, or light brown, with either (1) five irregular series of rows of black spots; (2) large dark vertebral spots and smaller lateral ones; (3) a black and white chequered pattern; or (4) a series of very small dark dots visible only on the interior half of the body.

Sometimes there is no pattern visible at all. The "Watersnake" rarely exceeds 3 feet in length.

"*Helicops Lechistosus*" is usually found in the same place as the foregoing snake, but is not so common, and is likewise often misnamed "Watersnake." Its habits and appearance are somewhat similar to the above, but the upper surface is uniform brown in colour with a bright red line along each side, and pale blue one below it, though the latter is sometimes absent.

"*Tropidonotus Stolatus*" is very common in the low-country, and is sometimes found in the hills. This is the gentlest of Eastern snakes and will rarely bite, even when first caught. It is usually to be found in damp marshy places, and after the paddyfields have been reaped it is often seen lying in the stubble or in holes in the bunds. It is closely allied to the common English Grass Snake. The ground colour of *Tropidonotus Stolatus* is of dark brown, crossed by black bars, and with a very distinct wide yellow line running along each side of the spine. It grows to 20 inches in length.

A familiar sight to Planters of the Kandy and Matale Districts is a russet brown snake, somewhat resembling a ratsnake, that glides across the tea bushes, and shows little or no fear when approached. This is the *Coluber Helena*, a snake that appears to confine itself to the lower hill-country and the foot of the hills, and does not penetrate to the Northern jungle districts beyond Matale. The colour of this snake is a reddish or russet brown, with a very

distinctly marked black line from the eye to the angle of the mouth, and three broad black lines on the neck. Along each side of the spine is a white festoon pattern. The "Coluber Helena" grows to 4½ feet in length, and has a characteristic habit of holding its prey in its coils while swallowing it, but does not constrict it as the Python does.

The Python (*Python Molurus*) with its bright yellow skin, and large irregular brown black-edged blotches is an unmistakable snake, and although it chiefly frequents the low-country is sometimes found in the hills, particularly round the lower hill Districts—Badulla, Dumbura, &c., though never far from large jungle. When in the sun the iridescence of the Python's skin causes it to shine with all the colours of the rainbow, though this is best seen in a specimen that has just cast its skin. The Python is occasionally met with when jungle is being cleared, though without any danger, as it is not an aggressive snake and rather helpless in the daytime.

In Ceylon this snake rarely exceeds 12 feet in length, though occasional specimens reach 18 feet.

In spite of popular belief, pythons are seldom found on trees, and do not enter the water as much as other members of that family.

Lying under a bush near a game track, the Python awaits the luckless hare or deer on its way back to drink, and, as the victim passes, shoots out its head, seizes it, and rolling rapidly round, kills it by constriction. In encircling small animals only the neck, and a small portion of the body is brought into use, but when dealing with deer or pig, and other such like animals the snake uses nearly its whole body. The "Dunnu Karawila" (*Dipsas Ceylonensis*) is a roof-dwelling snake of the back-fanged order, but only slightly poisonous, though its distinct spade-shaped head, gives it a very venomous appearance.

Of a dull brown colour, with black heart-shaped marks along the spine, it is almost invisible on the mud walls and thatched roofs of the native huts that it frequents, to prey upon lizards and small birds. Though a somewhat common snake, the "Dunnu Karawila" is but seldom seen, on account of its nocturnal habits.

Another very common snake—the "Lycodon Aulicus," has already been described when dealing with the "Krait." It causes a great deal of unnecessary trouble, as it is very common, and the natives, through their inability to distinguish it from the "Krait," regard it as deadly and fear it very much, sometimes even dying through sheer nervous prostration when bitten by it. To assure them that the snake is harmless is useless, and nothing but the administration of a glass of coloured water—or a coloured glass of water, will relieve their minds! These are the principal large-sized snakes found in the Planting Districts. Though there are numerous other species to be found, they are not so common, and want of space will not permit of a description. To pass on to the Earthsnakes, and smaller Colubrinae.

These live chiefly underground, under stones, and under dead trees and come out in the wet weather. Their food mostly consists of worms, insects, and earthsnakes smaller than themselves.

Probably the most interesting of the Earthsnakes is "*Cylindrophis Maculatus*," a dark brown snake with a reddish black-edged fasciolated pattern upon the upper surface. When caught it flattens itself to the width and

thickness of a table-knife handle, while the undersurface becomes extremely concave. Flattened out with its head under its coils, and its short flat tail sticking up in the air like the hood of the Cobra, it lies to all appearances dead, but if offered a Typhlops or other small snake, it will if hungry at once seize it, and proceed to crush it in the, now quite cylindrical, coils of its body. Rudiments of hind legs in the form of a thornlike protuberance are visible on each side of the body, and this, together with its constructive tendencies shows its close relationship to the Python, though the *Cylindrophis* seldom exceeds 1 foot 2 inches in length. Another snake, found in the hills and often met with when drains are being cleared,—*Aspidura Brachyrrhos*,—is a dark red in colour, but with four longitudinal lines running along the back and sides. It seldom exceeds 15 inches in length.

One of the commonest of the smaller Colubrinae, is *Oligodon Sublineatus*, which is easy to identify on account of the three rows of oblong dots on the undersurface—three dots on each ventral—one on each side, and one in the centre. The upper surface is brown with a large black spot on each side of the neck.

The *Oligodon* grows to 10 inches in length.

A striking snake in appearance is *Polydontophis Subpunctatus*, which has a broad black collar edged, and bisected, with yellow. The upper surface is dark brown with a line of small black dots along the spine, while there is a black dot on each side of each ventral.

It averages 17 inches in length.

The smallest of Ceylon earthsnake *Typhlops Mirus* is of a uniform dark brown colour and of the thickness of a piece of twine. It does not exceed 5½ inches in length, and lives underground where it feeds on worms.

I append below a list of the Tamil and Sinhalese names of snakes, though the list cannot be taken as being absolutely accurate, as there are numerous snakes that are known by different names in different Districts.

SNAKE.	TAMIL NAME.	SINHALESE.
Python Molurus.	Malam Pambu, Malei Virien, Venanatai.	Pimbura.
Lycodon Aulicus.	Kandan Karawela.	Tel Karawela, Alu Polonga, Girindiya.
Zamenis Mucosus (Ratsnake.)	Sarei Pambu.	Haburella, Mudu Karawila.
Coluber Helena.	Nir Pambu.	Haldunda.
Dendrophis Pictus.	Kumbera Muke.	Aharakuka, Mahagunaruwa.
Tropidonotus Stola-tus.	Pilursen Pambu.	Diya Naya, Diya-wariya.
Tropidonotus As-perrinus (Water Snake.)	Tanni Pambu.	—
Helicops, Schisto-sus.	Tanni Sarei (Water ratsnake)	—
Dipsas Ceylonensis.	Koli Pambu (Chicken Snake.)	Dunnu Karawila.
Dipsas Forstenii.	Vellika Virisan.	Naya Mapila, (Cobra viper.)
Dryophis Myeteri-zans (Green Whip-snake.)	Patchili Pambu (Green snake.)	Ahatula.
Dryophis Pulveru-lentus.	Keruda Pambu.	Herakandiya.
Chrysopelea Orna-ta.	—	Pol Mal Karawila (Coconut flower viper.)

Snake.	TAMIL NAME.	SINHALESE.
Bungarus Ceylonicus.	Et'Adi Virian (eight-step viper) Karait.*	Tel Karawila.
Naia Tripudians (Cobra.)	Nalla Pambu (good snake) naia.	Naya, Sangapara.
Vipera Russellii.	Podeyan, Viran Pambu, Kanadi Viran (Spectacle viper.)	Tic Polonga (spotted viper.)
Aneistrodon Hynale.	Sirrutai Pambu (Cheeroot snake.)	Kunukatuwa.
Trimeresurus Trigonoccephalus (Green Tic.)	Patchi Viran.	Palla Polonga.
Uropeltidae and Earthsnake.	Munelei Pambu.	Dingula.
Cylindrophis Maculatus.	—	Dingula.
Typhlops.	Munelei Pambu.	Depat Naya (two-headed snake.)
Tropidonotus Plumbicolor.	Patchi Tanni Pambu.	Nil Polonga.

* The Tamils believe that if a man is bitten by a "Krait," he will only walk eight steps before falling dead.

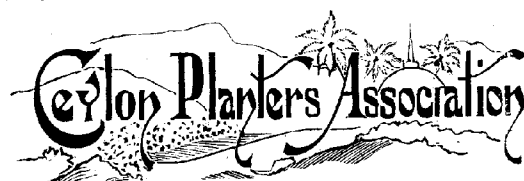


Myrtle Grove,
Youghal,
27th March, 1913.

My Dear Sir,

I have just received the copy of the *Planters' Gazette*, to which I wish all sorts of prosperity. It is well got up and in good form for keeping as a reference paper. The future prosperity of Ceylon depends upon its labour force and with the strong competition of the Malay States the cooly must be attracted by regular pay and decent lines. The Singhalese in the Southern Province were beginning to accept Estate work, being attracted by the ready money. I wonder if the movement continued.

Sincerely yours,
HENRY A. BLAKE,



TODAY'S MEETING AT KANDY.

ACTING RURAL MEMBER APPOINTED.

THE MATALE LABOUR SCHEME.

There was a record attendance at the meeting of the Planters' Association held at Ferguson Memorial Hall, Kandy, this afternoon. The attendance included a large number of lady visitors who came to witness the presentation to Mr. Rosling.

The Chairman formally proposed the resolution that Mr. Rosling be made a life member. He said that they all knew what Mr. Rosling had done for the Planting Community, and it was therefore not necessary for him to make a long speech.

The CHAIRMAN then handed the certificate of life-membership to Mr. Rosling amid applause.

Mr. ROSLING replying, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Association for the honour it had conferred upon him. That would probably be the last time he would address them in that room, but when he visited the Island again he hoped to meet all his friends. (applause).

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Rosling was not resigning his membership of the Legislative Council at the present moment, but an acting member had been selected by the Committee that morning. This was Mr. Wm. Sinclair—(cheers)—who was not in Ceylon at the present time but was returning towards the end of the year.

MR. THORPE'S RESOLUTION.

Mr. Thorpe then brought up his motion:—"That Government be asked to amend Ordinance No. 9 of 1909 as follows:—

(1.) Register the admitted debt of the cooly to kangany and estate. (2.) No further advances to be recoverable. (3.) Debt to be reduced by deducting 3 per cent. per month of the registered debt from the coolies' wages. The amount not to exceed 50 per cent. of the balance wages. (4.) After three years no more advances to be recovered. (5.) After three years abolish the tundu. (6.) After three years pay each cooly his full wages monthly.

Mr. THORPE said this was not a scheme in any way, but merely defined the lines on which they might approach Government. They were all agreed that what he suggested would go a long way towards the solution of the question. The present unlimited credit did not attract coolies from the Coast. The name of Ceylon was putrid to the Coast cooly. The cooly at the present time was an absolute slave. There was continuous harrassing of the cooly, and that was the reason they could not get labour. Any advances given out should be against work and should not be recovered from the cooly rupee by rupee as they were doing. The coolies at the present moment were getting only half their wages. The advances system had been a miserable failure. They all knew that they were not recoverable under the present conditions. The more they gave out in the way of advances the less chance they had of recovering them. The advances system was a pernicious system and they must get rid of it. The Shortage of Labour at the present time was affecting the whole island, both Government Departments and estates. Many of the estates would be better off if they got more labour. It was scandalous the way in which coolies were being treated at the present moment, they were driven about here and there and most of the Superintendents of estates knew what was going on. Federation would never do any good for the simple reason that they did not trust each other. "I will not trust my own brother for a cooly," he said. The sooner Government was asked to do something in this matter the sooner, he thought, they should arrive at a solution of what they were all striving for.

As a rule coolies were honest men and if they promised to work on an estate for three years or more they would do so. The present method of giving out advances was absolutely disastrous to the good name of Ceylon. The speaker also said under the present system coolies were brought and sold like slaves. If the Tundu was abolished coolies would give and redeem notices as ordinary monthly servants. If the Government were forced to take action without being approached with a definite scheme it would probably mean another Labour Commission

and another new Ordinance, and this would mean considerable delay in order that all those who were concerned should be consulted. This would mean that in the meantime planters would be losing millions of rupees every month.

STATEMENTS REPUDIATED.

Mr. LE FEUVRE said that it was not a fact that they were not getting just as many coolies from the Coast as they had been doing. He also said that it was not true that the name of Ceylon stand at the Coast. Instead of wasting time over all these non-essentials, such as details of advances, etc., they should appoint a Committee to formulate a scheme to get coolies from the Coast.

The CHAIRMAN also deprecated the use of such expressions as "stinking at the Coast." It was a catch phrase used a great deal by people who did not know what they meant.

TELEGRAM FROM LABOUR COMMISSIONER.

The Chairman read a telegram from Mr. Scoble Nicholson, who deprecated such expressions. He said that the vernacular press published these things, the coolies read them and mischief was caused.

Mr. LE FEUVRE proposed that the Association appoint a sub-Committee to formulate a scheme for more thorough recruiting in India with Europeans at its head.

The motion was seconded by Mr. T. Y. Wright.

An amendment was proposed that the Matale proposals be postponed for consideration till the result of canvass in connection with the Federation Scheme was ascertained.

Mr. LONG PRICE seconded.

The proposer said they had no time to discuss the Matale proposals. They were asked to swallow wholesale a sort of half-cooked plumdough from the Matale Association (loud laughter.)

Mr. SLY proposed as another amendment to appoint a Committee of ten members of the Planters' Association with a view to discuss the Matale resolution. He submitted a subsequent amendment in which he suggested that members who had labour troubles should be appointed on the Committee.

Mr. HALL BROWN seconded.

Mr. BISSETT proposed another amendment that the proposal should be sent to District Associations for immediate consideration.—No seconder.

Mr. GORDON REEVES asked planters to consider seriously what the want of unanimity was leading to. He asked them to support the Chairman of the P. A.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be three months before the decision of the Federation would be arrived at. The papers were ready and had been circulated. Within three months they would know whether the Federation had arrived at 75 per cent. or whether they would have to ask for legislation.

Mr. COOMBE strongly deprecated the use of the word slavery.

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN AND AMENDMENT REJECTED.

After further discussion Mr. Thorp withdrew his resolution in favour of the amendment, which, however, was lost, by 54 votes to 31.

The CHAIRMAN: Then we have done nothing.

LAST FRIDAY'S COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.

MR. WILLIAM SINCLAIR ADOPTED AS RURAL MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Interesting Correspondence.

Minutes of proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at Kandy, on Friday, the 9th May, 1913, at 1 p.m.

Present:—Mr. F. H. Layard (Chairman P. A. of Ceylon), the Hon. Mr. Edward Rosling (Kandy), Messrs. Hew Kennedy (Chairman Maskeliya P. A.), C. B. Prettejohn (Hon. Secretary Maskeliya P. A.), A. J. Austin Dickson (Chairman Kotmale P. A.), H. M. Picken (Pussellawa P. A.), O. Baleau (Ambegamuwa P. A.), R. B. Taylor (Kegalle P. A.), Jackson Smale (Chairman Kegalle P. A.), Fred S. Elson (Hon. Secretary Kotmale P. A.), P. P. C. Walker (Hon. Secretary Pussellawa P. A.), H. D. Saner (Chairman Passara P. A.), T. G. Elliot (Chairman Badulla P. A.), H. S. Cameron (Hon. Secretary Matale P. A.), H. Storey (Kandy), William Gibson (Haputale P. A.), H. G. Eccles (Chairman Dikoya P. A.), W. H. Biddulph (Chairman Uda-Pussellawa P. A.), H. G. Napier (K. K. and Panwila P. A.), E. G. Box (Hon. Secretary Dolosbagie and Yakdessa P. A.), P. J. M. Box (K. K. and Panwila P. A.), M. L. Wilkins (Chairman Ambegamuwa P. A.), Neill G. Campbell (Nuwara Eliya Districts P. A.), A. Hamilton Harding (Chairman Dimbula P. A.), H. Inglis (Kalutara P. A.), Albert D. Sly (Sabaragamuwa P. A.), Allen Coombe (Visitor), G. H. Gollidge (Chairman Kalutara P. A.), R. G. Coombe (Haputale P. A.), W. Coombe (Kandy), Edgar Turner (Colombo), W. Moir (Colombo), G. C. Bliss (Kandy), J. R. Barkley (Kalutara P. A.), J. W. Oldfield (Hon. Secretary Kalutara P. A.), A. S. Long Price (Chairman Kurunegala P. A.), R. Garnier (Ratutara P. A.), G. Lionel Cox (Colombo), W. Shakespeare (Colombo), Campbell Dudley (Visitor), J. W. Bennett (Kotmale P. A.), J. L. Hyde (Chairman Haputale P. A.), F. H. Laycock (Dikoya P. A.), F. W. Le Feuvre (Dimbula P. A.), George Brown (Sabaragamuwa P. A.), A. D. Donald (Visitor), J. Hall Brown (Chairman Rangalla P. A.), J. P. Hortin (K. K. and Panwila P. A.), T. Y. Wright (Chairman K. K. and Panwila P. A.), W. Sinclair Rangalla P. A.), C. D. Hunt (Visitor), Hodgson Bell (Matale P. A.), A. Thorp (Chairman Matale P. A.), A. M. Carmichael (Kelani Valley P. A.), D. Westland (Visitor), D. J. Blyth (Pussellawa P. A.), W. R. Westland (Kandy), Martin M. Smith (Kandy), G. L. H. Doudney (Hon. Secretary K. K. and Panwila P. A.), S. P. Blackmore (Ambegamuwa P. A.), Rodney Mylius (Dimbula P. A.), A. P. Jukes (Maskeliya P. A.), C. A. Grant (Hewaheta P. A.), C. W. Newton (Ramboda P. A.), N. J. Wilson Blackett (Chairman Ramboda P. A.), P. R. Shand (Kandy), and John Still (Secretary P. A. of Ceylon.) 63 Members and four visitors.

The notice calling the meeting was read.

The minutes of proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon held at Kandy on Friday, the 14th March, 1913, were submitted for confirmation.

Resolved:—"That they be and they hereby are confirmed."

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

Submitted letters and telegrams expressing regret at inability to be present at meeting from P. G. Wood, A. C. Wilson, J. B. Sidgwick, J. R. Neale, J. L. Tancock, D. B. Williamson, R. H. Villiers, J. S. Patterson, Geo. Benzie, James, Westland, and R. Huyshe Elliot.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.

A letter from the Morawakkorale District P. A. intimating that that the body had been revived was laid on the table.

RURAL MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Two names were put forward for recommendation by the Planters' Association to act for the Hon. Mr. E. Rosling. The name of Mr. William Sinclair of Rangalla was adopted.

THANKS OF GOVERNMENT.

The following letter from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary was laid on the table :—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 15th April, 1913.

THE CHAIRMAN,
The Planters' Association of Ceylon.

SIR,

I am directed to state that the assistance rendered by the planters along the Haputale and Matale lines at the time of the serious slips last January has been brought to the notice of the Officer Administering the Government. Special mention has been made of the following gentlemen: Messrs. J. W. Hyde, Haputale estate, T. Hudson, Glenanore estate, R. Ashby Thotulagalla estate, Rollo Cassie, Kahagalla estate, G. O. Trevaldwyn of Wiharegalla and W. A. Wilson, Pita Ratmalie estate.

3. His Excellency will be glad if you will convey to these gentlemen in particular and to the Planting Community in general his appreciation of the services rendered by them to Government.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) L. W. BOOTH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

RUBBER THEFT.

After a discussion of this important subject it was resolved :—“ That this Association would urge upon Government the necessity of registering every producer of rubber, and of all such producers keeping a daily account of all rubber produced. Further this Association would urge that failure to keep such an account should be deemed an offence under the Ordinance.”

MEDICAL WANTS COMMITTEE.

* Resolved :—“ That Government be asked to appoint Mr. E. Turner to act upon this Committee in place of the Hon. Mr. E. Rosling.”

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF DYSENTERY.

Mr M. L. Wilkins enquired whether the Emetine treatment for dysentery was available at Government Hospitals, and the Hon. the Rural Member, Legislative Council, replied that he had ascertained that this treatment was to be made available at hospitals and dispensaries where there were beds for the subsequent accommodation of patients treated with Emetine.

HOSPITAL NURSES.

The Hon. the Rural Member informed the Meeting that Government was inquiring into the treatment of Hospital Nurses especially as regards their pay, leave, and diet.

TODDY AND ARRACK TAVERNS.

The following resolution of the Dickoya P. A. was read and placed on record :—

“ That this Association very strongly protests against the way in which the Norwood Arrack Tavern has been forced upon the District in view of the fact that written protests were duly submitted on the proper date.”

THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
Colombo.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose copies of correspondence between the Planters' Association of Ceylon and the Hon. the Government Agent, C.P.

I am directed respectfully to inquire whether you will postpone the sale of the tavern at Norwood in view of the following facts, viz.:—

(1) There is an exceedingly strong feeling among the managers of the estates likely to be affected that the establishment of a tavern at Norwood would gravely affect the welfare of their labour forces.

(2) The object was duly notified to the Hon. the Government Agent, C.P., and a resolution of protest passed by the Dickoya Planters' Association was forwarded to him with my letter of the 8th January, 1913.

(3) The Hon. the Government Agent, C.P., in paragraph 2 of his letter No. 1122/14992 of the 6th March, 1913, describes the steps taken to notify Dickoya Planters' Association that he expected them to follow up their protest by a deputation. It is possible that the Hon. Secretary of the Dickoya P. A. attached too little importance to the “ Gazette ” notice, and that he should have understood more clearly the formal steps he was required to take in order that his protest might be rendered effective. But it appears plain that the Dickoya Planters' Association was justified in expecting that their protest forwarded by me to the Government Agent on the 8th January would receive more attention than that afforded by a notice posted to them in the previous month.

(4) It is not clear that the Dickoya protest was before Government at the time that the establishment of the tavern was sanctioned. I made inquiry on this point in my letter to the Government Agent dated the 26th February, 1913, and obtained no information on the subject from his reply No. 982/14992 dated the 27th February. I again asked the same question in my letter of the 5th instant, and I am only able to illicit the information contained in the Government Agent's letter No. 1122/14992 of the 6th instant.

The sale of the tavern is fixed for the 13th instant. The General Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon meets in Kandy on the 14th instant when this subject will be on the agenda.

In view of the extreme importance to the Planting Community of the issues raised in this correspondence I am directed to solicit your intervention so that the sale of this tavern may not take place at least until a further opportunity of consideration has been given to my Committee.

The point at issue, as I have already pointed out in my letter to the Government Agent, dated the 26th February, 1913, is not whether a tavern is or is not to be established at Norwood, but whether a tavern should or should not be established at any place in the planting districts in the teeth of a well-considered and earnest opposition by those whose interests are at stake.

I am, Sir,
Kandy, 6th March, 1913. Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary,
P. A. of Ceylon.

MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF ARRACK TO BE REMOVED.

Kandy, January, 8th 1913

THE HON'BLE,
THE GOVERNMENT AGENT, C.P.,
Kandy.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 3rd instant re above subject, I have the honour to annex extract of letter received

from the Dickoya Planters' Association to my circular on the subject.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary,
P. A. of Ceylon.

Extract referred to:

"That a limit of three bottles of arrack should be allowed, and that the Association strongly deprecated any increase of taverns. That this Association protests against the opening of a tavern at Norwood."

ARRACK TAVERNS.

THE SECRETARY,
P. A. of Ceylon, Kandy.

Sir,
With reference to your letters dated 3rd and 8th January, 1913, I have the honour to inform you that it has been considered necessary to open the following new arrack taverns from July 1st, 1913.

KANDY DISTRICT.

TUMPAHE DIVISION,
At Eremduliya.
Uda Dumbara Division.
At Udipattu.
UDA PALATA DIVISION.
At Pupuressa.
At Miyangalla.
At Galpaya.

Uda Bulatgama Division.
At Hardenhuish.
At Norwood.
At Maskeliya.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. S. SXTON,
Government Agent, C.P.,
W. Y. L. ROGERSON,
Office Assistant.

The HON'BLE
THE GOVERNMENT AGENT, C.P.,
Kandy.
February 26th, 1913.

Sir,
I have the honour to inquire whether the objection lodged by the Dickoya District Planters' Association to the establishment of an arrack tavern at Norwood has been overlooked.

This protest was forwarded to you in my letter of the 8th January, 1913. But it is not referred to in your letter No. 713/14992 of the 11th February, 1913, addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Dickoya Planters' Association, in which you state (1) that you were unaware that the planters would be likely to object; and (2) that the tavern has now been sanctioned by Government.

In the same letter you state that written objections were awaited until the 13th January and verbal representations on the 15th January.

The matter has been brought before the Planters' Association of Ceylon, and I am directed to inquire whether the objection lodged on the 8th January was before Government at the time that the tavern in question was sanctioned.

I am further directed to inform you that a strong opinion was expressed at the meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association on the 14th instant that the establishment of this tavern in the face of local opposition would excite among the Planting Community a distinct antagonism to the administration of the Excise Ordinance. I am to make it quite clear that the objection taken is not the establishment of any one particular tavern, but to the apparent indifference to a formal objection laid by those locally most entitled to object.

I shall be greatly obliged if you can inform me at an early date whether or no the sale proposed for the 13th March can be postponed pending further inquiry, so that I may have time, if necessary, to approach His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary,
P. A. of Ceylon.

ARRACK TAVERN AT NORWOOD.

Kandy Kacheheri,
February 27th, 1913.

Sir,
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 26th instant.

2. If the word unaware appears in my letter No. 713 of the 12th February to the Honorary Secretary of the Dickoya Planters' Association it is an error. I wrote 'aware.' I was perfectly aware of your having sent me the Dickoya Planters' Association protest on the 8th January. That is why I wrote that I thought the planters would be likely to object on the 15th January: it was for that very reason that I asked Mr. Horsburg to be present in Kandy, because I expected to receive deputations from the Dickoya, Maskeliya and other Planters' Associations who were invited by my letter of the 28th December to attend on that day and to write in their objections on the 13th January or verbal on 15th January, and was entitled to consider that the objections were not being pursued further.

3. The 13th March is fixed for the sale of the arrack rent, because, as usual, the new renters have to have sufficient time to make their arrangements, give security and before taking up their rents on the 1st July. The date is not fixed by me, but by the authorities in Colombo.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. S. SXTON,
Government Agent, C.P.,
(Signed) H. M. M. MOORE,
Office Assistant

The HON'BLE
THE GOVERNMENT AGENT, C.P.,
Kandy.
5th March, 1913.

Sir,
In continuation of previous correspondence I have the honour to inform you that I have now received from the Hon. Secretary of the Dickoya Planters' Association the original of your letter No. 713/14992 of the 12th ultimo. My letter to you was based upon a copy finished by the Dickoya, P.A. which contained the sentence previously referred to, viz.:—

"I was unaware the planters would be likely to object." In the original "unaware" has been somewhat insufficiently altered to "aware" and from this arose a misunderstanding.

I think it is now clear that the Dickoya Planters' Association did not at all realise the importance you attached to the verbal representations except on the 15th January, or their representatives would undoubtedly have seen you on that date.

Opposition to the establishment of this tavern is very strong indeed, and the matter is again to be brought up at the meeting of the General Committee of the Planters' Association on the 14th instant. In view of the fact and of the fact that the only intimation given in reply to Dick ya's resolution of protest forwarded through the Parent Association was a notice in the "Gazette" I am directed to inquire whether you can obtain postponement of the sale fixed for the 13th instant.

It is not quite clear from your letter No. 962/14992, of the 27th ultimo whether the objection sent in by me on the 8th January was before Government at the time that the tavern was sanctioned, and I shall be glad to have further information on this point.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) JOHN STILL,
Secretary,
P. A. of Ceylon.

Kandy Kacheheri,
8th March, 1913.

Sir,
In reply to your letter of 5th instant I have the honour to rep at that the date of sale on 13th March is settled by Government and I have no authority to alter it. You should address Government.

2. It is hardly correct to say that the only reply to Dickoya's resolution was a notice in the "Gazette." I sent a copy of that notice to the Honorary Secretary on the 28th December, 1912, and it has not been returned to me through the Dead Letter Office. I sent the same to all Associations

concerned in the proposed new taverns. Also on the 28th December I sent notices to the Ratamahatmeya and he affixed one at Norwood.

3. The objection of 8th January was before me and Mr. Horsburgh, the Excise Commissioner on the 15th January. I am not aware what Mr. Horsburgh reported to Government.

4. I would again remind you that the proposal was distinctly explained to the Parent Association long before December.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. S. SEXTON,
Government Agent, C.P.
(Signed) H. M. M. MOORE,
Office Assistant.

Kandy Kachcheri,
12th February, 1913.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
Dickoya Planters' Association,
Venture, Norwood.

Sir,
With reference to your letter dated the 8th instant, I have the honour to remind you that I sent the Planters' Association a list of the proposed new taverns on the 12th November, 1912. I also sent your Association a notice of the proposal to establish a tavern at Norwood, on the 28th December, asking for written objections on 13th January and verbal representations on the 15th. I was aware that the Planters would be likely to object, and the matter has twice been discussed before the Planters' Association at Kandy. Mr. Horsburgh, the Excise Commissioner, and myself personally explained the figures and the reason why Government thought a tavern necessary at Norwood. Mr. Horsburgh and I were ready on the 15th January to meet any gentleman who wish to object, and no one appeared. The tavern has now been sanctioned by Government and the rents will be sold on the 13th March.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) G. S. SEXTON,
Government Agent, C. P.
(Signed) H. M. M. MOORE,
Office Assistant.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 20th March, 1913.

Sir,

In continuation of my acknowledgment of your letter dated the 8th March regarding the proposed establishment of a tavern at Norwood, I am directed by the Officer Administering the Government to state that it appears that on the 28th December, 1912, the Government Agent sent a notice of the proposal to establish the tavern in question to the Dickoya Planters' Association and invited the Association to take written objections on 13th January, 1913, and verbal representations on the 15th idem. In reply to this the Association would appear to have submitted merely a copy of a resolution protesting against the opening of a tavern. No verbal presentations were made and no argument was adduced in support of the resolution.

2. On the other hand the figures of consumption showed that the sales at the Hatton and Kotiyagala taverns in 1911 and 1912 have been as follows:—

	1911.	1912.
Hatton ...	Gallons 26,060	31,908
Kotiyagala ...	„ 10,827	11,778

During January, 1913, 3,670 gallons were sold at Hatton tavern and 1,150 at Kotiyagala tavern. As almost the whole of this arrack is sold by the gallon, a strong presumption arises that the whole trade at Norwood which is situated midway between Hatton and Kotiyagala is illicit. Moreover the figures show that the volume of this traffic is considerable, and as the distance from the Hatton to the Kotiyagala taverns is 14 miles is such as would properly justify the establishment of a tavern at Norwood to meet its legitimate supply.

3. In the face of these figures of consumption His Excellency is of opinion that the Government Agent was justified in including a tavern for Norwood in his revised list, and His Excellency regrets that he sees no sufficient reason for varying his decision.

4. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, His Excellency directs me to assure you that he will accord every consideration to any well considered and earnest opposition on the part of employers of labour, but is unable to give any pledge that this opposition shall prevail in a locality where the volume of the existing demand and consumption and the lack of reasonable and legitimate facilities for its supply would appear to call for the establishment of a tavern.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

SHOT-HOLE BORER.

Read the following letters from Mr. J. S. Patterson and from the Director of Agriculture:—

THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association,
Kandy.

General Hospital,
Colombo, May 4th, 1913.

Dear Sir,

I return the file concerning Shot-hole borer, for which I am much obliged. It would seem to me that hardly a sufficiently serious view of this pest is taken. If it has spread from 500 acres to 50,000 acres in the last 12 years, which I gathered from Mr. Rutherford (Mr. Green's successor) to be the case, what is to stop it spreading further? I have recently heard of attacks in quite fresh districts, and I certainly think that it would be a very good thing if all estates affected were forced to report the presence of the pest to the nearest Kachcheri for the information for the Pests Board and to enable the gradual increase in the area affected to be gauged.

I note from the file you sent to me that high cultivation with either burning of prunings or burying them with lime is looked upon as the best means of dealing with the pest.

I would, however, like to point out that whilst this treatment minimises loss of crop it does not get rid of the pest, and the increase in areas affected points to the necessity of more preventive measures being introduced. I will be glad if you can bring this question before your Committee.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. S. PATTERSON,

Department of Agriculture,
Peradeniya, Ceylon,
May 9th, 1913.

THE CHAIRMAN,
Planters' Association,
Kandy.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a resolution passed at the meeting of the Committee of Agricultural Experiments held on May 8th, 1913, and to beg that you will kindly submit the same to the consideration of the Planters' Association at your earliest convenience.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) R. N. LYNE,
Director of Agriculture.
(Signed) T. PETCH,
for Director.

"Copy of resolution referred to":—

"That the Planters' Association be asked whether compulsory proclaiming of plant pests on individual estates is desirable in the interests of the planting industry."

Resolved:—"That this matter do come up for discussion at the next meeting of this Committee, and that the Secretary do meanwhile send a copy of the Director of Agriculture's letter to all District Planters' Associations for their consideration."

RAGAMA CAMP.

Read the following letter from the Kalutara District P. A., and a letter on the same subject from the Punduloya District P. A.

Gallawatte Estate,
Matugama, 26th March, 1913.

THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of this Association I write to enquire whether the subject of "coolies, who have given false information at Ragama, should be prosecuted in the District Court to which the original estate belongs instead of the Colombo District Court" has been brought up before the Planters' Association of Ceylon in the past. If the matter has been taken up I shall be much obliged for particulars of the result.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. W. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Secretary,
Kalutara, P. A.

Sheen Estate,
Punduloya, April 22nd, 1913.

THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to forward you the resolution brought up at the Punduloya P. A. meeting held January 20th, 1913, which I was asked to send round the different District Association for support before asking you for your support, which we hope you will be able to see your way to give. The District P. A.'s who have supported the resolution are the following:—"Dickoya P. A.," "Maskeliya P. A.," "Hewahetta P. A.," "Kelani Valley P. A." Each Association's Hon. Secretaries has acknowledged the resolution, and since it has been sent round each meeting that has been held have unanimously supported it I am led to understand that your Association have had this up before, but the Attorney-General would not allow the present ordinance to be altered. Since the time this was brought up, the condition of labour has altered and many new regulations have come in, dealing with labour. It is the general feeling all round now that coolies have found out that they can come in from coast with another estate kangany, or coolies, and by giving false information at Ragama need not go back to their original estate. It is very hard to trace them, but when this has been done unless a case is taken in Colombo Court no case can be taken, so the result is the coolies know there is no punishment to risk. It is impossible for a Superintendent from Up-country to take a case in Colombo, as the time and expense cannot be spared. I am sending this in now, so that you may have this in time before your next meeting. As other District Associations send in their replies from their April meetings, I will forward you their answer to you.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. B. SIDGWICK,
Chairman and Secretary.

ManResolved:—"That in view of the early opening of the ditionar Railway and the consequent alteration in conditions this question be postponed for the present."

Several members having stated that they believed the supply of new cloth to coolies in Ragama Camp had not yet been commenced, the Secretary was instructed to write and ask the Hon'ble the Government Agent, W. P., from what date the innovation would commence.

Read the following letter from the Hon'ble the Government Agent, W.P.:-

Colombo Kachcheri,
29th-30th April, 1913.

THE SECRETARY,
Planters' Association of Ceylon,
Kandy.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a list of articles which are supplied to tin ticket coolies at the Ragama Camp and charged to the estates showing the existing rates, and the increase it is proposed to allow to the contractor who complains that the present rates are insufficient.

The new rates have been recommended by the local Mudliyar at a revision made by him at the request of the Camp Superintendent. I have to enquire whether you see any objection to the new rates. They will not effect the charges for ordinary diets which will remain as at present.

I am, Sir,
Yours Obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. S. PAGDEN,
Government Agent, W. P.

RATES REFERRED TO:-

	Proposed rates. Rs. 3 cts.	Existing rates. Rs. 2½ cts.
Firewood per bundle of 3 lbs.		
Firewood per yard cut into		
half yard split	3 00	2 75
Chatties	16 to 75	15 to 75
Betel 6 leaves	1½	1
Arecanuts 4	1½	1
Tobacco leaves each	8 to 7	5 to 6
Plates	16	15

Resolved:—"That this Association is of opinion that fresh tenders should be called for at the existing rates before any increase should be considered.

ORDINANCE No. 9 OF 1909.

The following resolution forwarded by the Pussellawa was Planters' Association discussed, but was not adopted:-

1. "That this Association do urge the necessity of legalising the Tundu as an individual document by interpolating in Section No. 24, sub-section 1 after the word 'tundu' on which shall be stated the individual indebtedness of each labourer."
2. "That notice to leave the estate be issued through a Police Magistrate."

The following resolution forwarded by the Matale Planters' Association was discussed, but no resolution was passed as the matter was upon Agenda for the General Meeting.

That Government be asked to amend Ordinance 9 of 1909 as follows:-

- (1.) Register the admitted debt of the cooly to kangany and estate.
- (2.) No further advances to be recoverable.
- (3.) Debt to be reduced by deducting 3 per cent. per month of the registered debt from the coolies' wages. This amount not to exceed 50 per cent. of the balance wages.
- (4.) After three years no more advances to be recovered.
- (5.) After three years abolish the tundu.
- (6.) After three years pay each cooly his full wages monthly.

RURAL MEMBER.

Resolved that Mr. William Sinclair's name be submitted to His Excellency the Acting Governor, to act for the Hon. Mr. Rosling as Rural Member in Council.

A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the meeting.

JOHN STILL
Secretary,
P. A. of Ceylon.

THE "THIRTY COMMITTEE."

LAST SATURDAY'S MEETING.

Minutes of proceedings of a meeting of the "Thirty Committee" appointed to administer the proceeds of the export duty on tea levied under Ordinance No. 4 of 1894 for increasing the consumption of Ceylon tea in foreign lands, held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Saturday, the 10th May, 1913, at 7.30 a.m.:

Present:—Mr. F. H. Layard (Chairman), Messrs. William Gibson, G. H. Gollidge, G. C. Bliss, H. F. Laycock, W. H. Biddulph, H. Inglis, H. J. Eccles, and John Still (Secretary).—Nine members.

The notice calling the meeting was read.

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the "Thirty Committee" held at Kandy on Saturday, the 11th January, 1913, were submitted for confirmation. Resolved:—"That they be and they hereby are confirmed."

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

Submitted letters and telegrams regretting inability to be present at the meeting from Messrs. James Westland, R. Huyshe Eliot, Geo. Benzie, and J. S. Patterson.

TEA KIOSK IN THE FORT OF COLOMBO.

Resolved:—"That the Chamber of Commerce be invited to co-operate in approaching Government with a suggestion that the remainder of the funds lying to the credit of this Committee be utilized in the establishment of a Tea Kiosk in the Fort of Colombo."

INTERNATIONAL RUBBER AND ALLIED TRADES EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1914.

Resolved:—"That the paper regarding the International Rubber and Allied Trades Exhibition be referred back to the General Committee of the Planters' Association as the subject is without the scope of their Committee."

CEYLON TEA IN EUROPE.

Resolved:—"That no funds are available for the purpose derived by Mr. Marinitsch."

"THIRTY COMMITTEE" MEETINGS

Resolved:—"That 'Thirty Committee' meetings be held in future on the same day as meetings of the General Committee of the Planters' Association."

A vote of thanks was passed to the chair.

JOHN STILL,

Secretary,

"Thirty Committee."

JAMES WESTLAND.

One by one the old brigade of planters are passing away, and when we gathered together on Saturday last, the 24th May, round the grave of James Westland we laid to rest one of the best of them. The Planters' Association of Ceylon have lost a strong supporter, for he was a most regular attendant at the bi-monthly meetings in Kandy, meetings which often started early on Friday lasting all through that day and finishing off early on Saturday morning with the Thirty Committee, at which Mr. Westland always made his voice heard, for he was a most vigorous supporter of the Tea Cess, ever ready with some new scheme for pushing Tea in foreign countries with all that earnestness and single-mindedness of purpose which impressed all who heard him speak.

At times he might not get a supporter, but it made no difference to him, for it only egged him on and brought out all his latent force and he hammered away at his argument until he got a promise that something would be done.

The Cardamom Cess was his own particular creation, and the Coast Agency owed its inception entirely to James Westland, for he hammered away at the subject until in self-defence the Association appointed two men to study the whole question in S. India—and as a result of their report in 1903, the Coast Agency was inaugurated in 1904, and, though it never came up to James Westland's expectations, it undoubtedly has done so much to encourage Coast recruiting—the one and only solution of our labour troubles.

If I were to touch on but a few of the burning questions in the Planters' Association during the last ten or twelve years which James Westland supported I should fill pages. He will be greatly missed by every member of the various Committees on which he served. Who will ever forget James Westland making a fighting speech at a General Meeting, for he was then at his best, full of enthusiasm for his subject with a rapid flow of words, and, as he warmed to his subject, the rafters of the Ferguson Memorial Hall rang with his voice, and when he sat down, the cheers rose from supporters and opponents alike, for all felt that he had given us of his best and we were carried away by his oratory.—R. I. P.

E. T.

Another old friend of the late Mr. Westland writes:—"Poor old Westland! I am grieved to hear that he has gone from among us, and also very sorry that I cannot join in paying him the last honours. It is sad to think, we shall never again listen to his emphatic championship of what he believed to be right. We should all be the better for a little more of his enthusiasm in the cause of fair dealing. He was a rare man in his way and had the great gift of "letting himself go" on occasion."

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